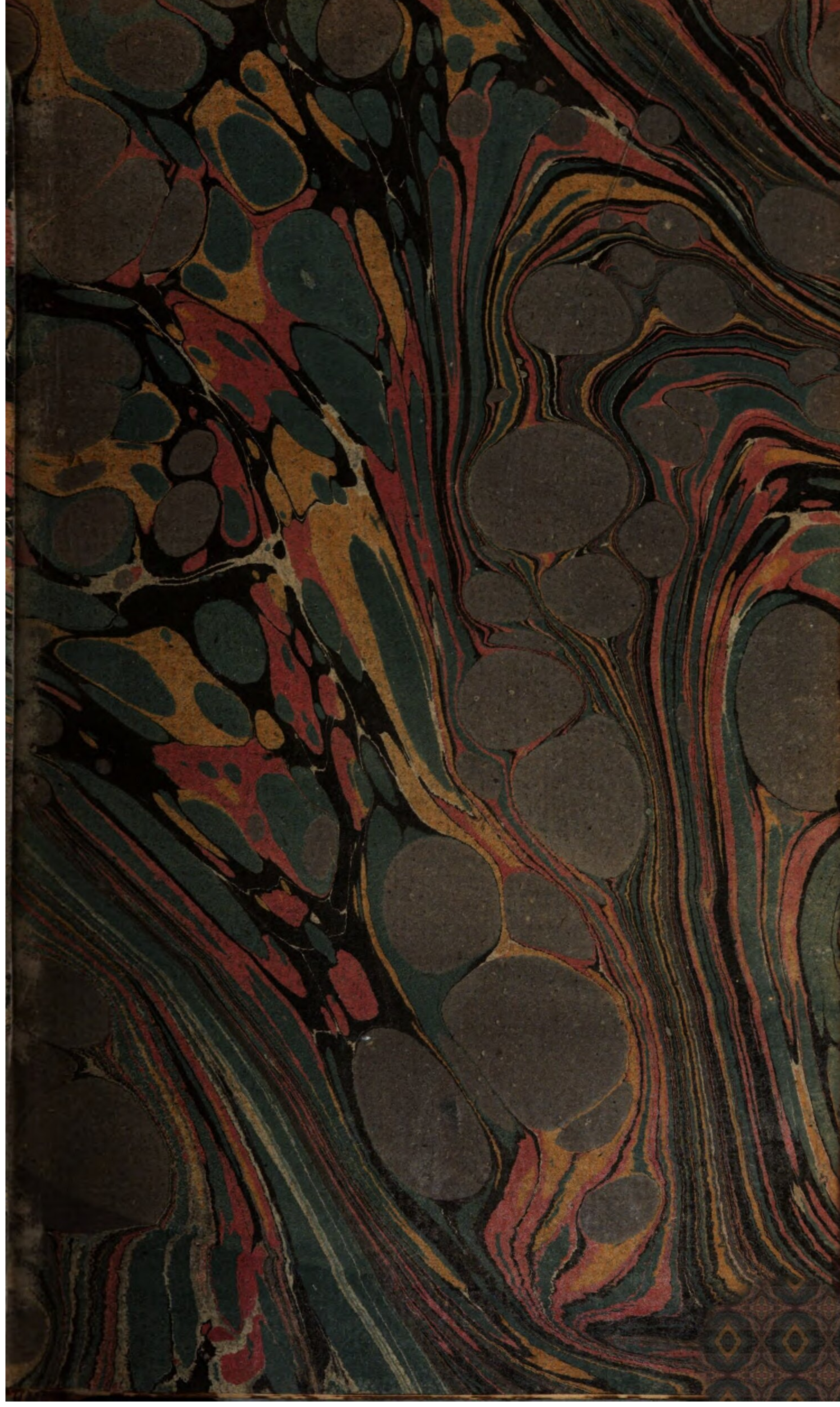








Brit

49ⁿ-2

Beauties



Britton del.

Storer Sculp.

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL. S.E.

London, Published April 2, 1801, by Vernor & Hood, Printers for the Beauties of Wiltshire &c

The
BEAUTIES of WILTSHIRE,
displayed in
Statistical, Historical & Descriptive
Sketches
Illustrated by Views of
THE PRINCIPAL SEATS &c,
with Anecdotes of
The Wills.
VOL. II.



LONDON,

Published by the Proprietors, April 2^d 1801.
(and Sold by Vernor & Hood, Poultry. J. Whelple, Warwick Square,
and J. Britton, N. 18, Wilderness Row.)

THE
BEAUTIES
OF
WILTSHIRE,
DISPLAYED IN

STATISTICAL, HISTORICAL, AND DESCRIPTIVE
SKETCHES:

INTERSPERSED WITH
ANECDOTES OF THE ARTS.

VOL. II.

WILTSHIRE.

Hallow'd memento of the Druid age!
Whose mystic plains a Briton's awe engage,
Whose bleating flocks the ample downs o'erspread,
Where structures rude entomb the mighty dead!
Where bounteous Ceres hails the summer's morn,
And pours exhaustless treasures from her horn;
Where princely Domes, uprear'd by mimic art,
Enchant the eye, and gratify the heart!—
Faintly, O WILTS! my hand essays to trace
The magic splendors of thy varied face;
To snatch from Lethe's stream thy honor'd name,
And *sketch thy* BEAUTIES on the scroll of fame.

L O N D O N:

Printed by J. D. Dewick, Aldersgate-street,
FOR VERNOR AND HOOD, POULTRY; J. WHEBLE, WARWICK
SQUARE; J. BRITTON, WILDERNESS-ROW;
And sold by all Booksellers in the United Kingdoms.

1801

(iv)
TO

SIR RICHARD COLT HOARE, BART.

SIR,

THE fortunate coincidence of circumstances which attends my present address, has given birth to emotions of inexpressible pleasure. To whom could topographical sketches be inscribed with more *propriety* than to him whose extensive travelling, and habitual partiality to the subject, have qualified him to become a judicious patron to such a work? But this is not the only source of my pleasure: your alacrity in promoting my enquiries—your anxious exertions towards illustrating this county—your taste and practical knowledge in the polite arts—all conspire to render you *peculiarly* entitled to the present address, and fully competent to *appreciate* the merits of the following pages.

Affluence is too frequently accompanied by a *haughty reserve*, the result of pride and of ignorance.

rance. This, like the churlish guard of an Eastern tyrant, repels the advances of the humble, and intimidates the meek author at the very commencement of his labors. But *happily* for me, and *honorable* for yourself, neither pride nor arrogance ever had dominion in your breast. If the present work should happily merit your approbation, it will afford a continued source of joy to,

Your much obliged,

and obedient,

Humble servant,

JOHN BRITTON.

ANALYTICAL

ANALYTICAL TABLE.

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Be careful to put silver paper facing every print.

ERRATA.

The following errors have been discovered since the sheets were worked off, which the reader is solicited to correct.

Vol. I: Page 27, line 2, *read* as civilization. p. 33, l. 15, *read* distant towers. p. 44, l. 26, *dele* or other. p. 72, note, *r.* precentor. p. 77, l. 18, full stop after era. p. 86, l. 28, *dele* c, in scite. p. 91, note, *read* a work for publication, of the crosses, &c. in which. p. 102, l. 13, *read* Giordano. p. 104, l. 11, Rothenamer. p. 135, l. 11, *dele* c, in scite. p. 223, l. 8, *read* address.

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THE
BEAUTIES OF WILTSHIRE.

SECT. XIV.

STOURHEAD,

HAS been long celebrated for its gardens, buildings, statues, and pictures; and, though often mentioned by different authors, yet no one has ever done it justice by a *particular* and *accurate description*. Though conscious of my own incapacity to render it that justice, I will endeavour to delineate some of the principal features and ornaments within the area of this domain.

Stourhead, for many generations, was the family seat of the Lords Stourton; from one of whom it was purchased by Henry Hoare, Esq. in the beginning of the eighteenth century. Upon taking possession of the estate, that gentleman gave it the name of *Stourhead*, from its being the source of the river Stour.

About this period (1720) a new era arose in the embellishment and disposition of gardens. Mr. Kent, a man of original genius; a “painter, an architect, and the father of modern gardening,” was lately arrived from Rome, and being patronized by Lord Burlington, soon effected a revolution of system, and was fortunate enough to set the fashion of *landscape gardening*. It was a *new* fashion, and consequently followed with avidity.

Mr. Hoare, with the noble ambition and enthusiasm which characterizes the man of *genius* and *taste*, felt a glow of emulation when he contemplated Stourhead, and finding it possessed of “capabilities,” resolved to apply the united efforts of art, taste, and science, to embellish and adorn this favoured spot of nature. He raised the temple, planted the grove, formed the “crystal lake,” and exultingly beheld,

“A new creation greet his gladden’d sight.”

Every revolving year produced something new, or brought with it some tasteful alteration at Stourhead; and Mr. Hoare had the happiness to see it acquire that degree of perfection and celebrity, which occasioned it to be *imitated* in many of the most fashionable seats in the kingdom.

“Numbers

“ Numbers flock to view the extensive plan,
“ Applaud the work, and venerate the man,
“ That in such rich profusion has display’d
“ Nature and art, in all their charms array’d.”

A VIEW OF STOURHEAD GARDENS.

People of all ranks visited Stourhead. The poet sounded its eulogy—the painter delineated its beauties—the architect imitated its ornamental buildings—the connoisseur descanted on its charms in the full glow of admiration and delight. Taking these things into consideration, we cease to wonder at its national celebrity; but it is the more to be admired from having been *one* of the first places laid out in the new style of gardening, and designed by a *country gentleman*, unassisted by any *landscape gardener*. Mr. Hoare, at an advanced age, had the heartfelt satisfaction to hear a place of his own creation universally admired, and to see a *barren waste* covered with the most luxuriant woods.

Colin Campbell, the architect of Wanstead House, and author of “*Vitruvius Britannicus*,” gave the original designs for the house at Stourhead. Mr. Hoare made some alterations in the plan, and it was finished in 1722.

It consists of a rustic basement, supporting a regular tetrastile-eustile of the composite order, with an entablature and balustrade round the

whole building. Since its erection it has undergone many alterations, the most material being the building of two additional wings, connected with the north and south sides, forming in the whole a façade of two hundred feet in length. These wings contain two rooms forty-five feet by twenty-five; the one destined for a library, the other for a picture-gallery.

The east front of this mansion commands an extensive and pleasing prospect. Wardour house and castle are directly opposite to the entrance door; a little to the left may be seen Mr. Beckford's newly erected abbey. The view on one side is bounded by the smooth and undulating *chalk hills*, which here have their termination. On the other side a richly wooded and cultivated scene opens itself to view, well broken by two bold knolls, on one of which formerly stood Mere Castle.

The entrance hall, a cube of thirty feet, contains a few pictures; among these, an allegorical piece by Carlo Marratti, is highly deserving of attention. It represents a genius introducing the Marquis Pallavicini to the painter, who is sitting with a canvas prepared to paint his portrait. The painter is attended by the three Graces, one of whom holds his pallet, another directs his attention to the Temple of Fame, which

which appears on a lofty rock; the third is partially seen leaning with her arm over the shoulder of the other. An Angel, with a crown of laurel, is portrayed hovering over the head of the Marquis. In the back ground are two figures; one, in armour, as relating the heroic actions of the Marquis, the other is recording them on his shield, in letters of gold.

Bellori, in his *Life of Carlo Marratti*, gives a particular account of this picture.

Augustus and Cleopatra, by Raphael Mengs. Plutarch has given an animated description of this subject, in his life of Mark Anthony. The painter has transferred it to the canvas with expressive pencilling.

“A few days after the death of Mark Anthony,” says the eloquent historian, “Cæsar made Cleopatra a visit of condolence. She was then in an undress, and lying negligently on a couch; but when the conqueror entered the apartment, though she had nothing on but a single robe, she arose hastily and threw herself at his feet; her hair dishevelled, her voice trembling, her eyes sunk; in short, her person gave you the image of her mind; yet, in this deplorable condition, there was some remains of that grace, that spirit and vivacity, which had so peculiarly animated her former charms; and still

some gleams of her native elegance might be seen to wander over her melancholy countenance."

A Landscape, by G. Poussin.

In the DRAWING-ROOM, thirty feet by twenty, are several fine paintings, which irresistibly attract our attention, and command admiration.

The Rape of the Sabines, by N. Poussin, is generally allowed to be one of his finest pieces. It evinces his skill in muscular delineations, and cannot fail to interest the feelings of sensibility, by the dread and anguish which mark every female countenance. There is an old engraving of this picture; and Felibian has described it in his "Lives of the Painters."

The Prophet Elijah raising the dead Child to Life, by Rembrandt.

This fine picture was given to the family by Bishop Atterbury. It has been engraved by Earlom.

An Altar-Piece, representing the Madona and Child, St. John the Baptist, and St. Ambragio, by Andrea del Sarto.

The daughter of Herodias, with the head of St. John the Baptist in a Charger, by Carlo Dolci.

A Holy Family, by Fra. Bartolomeo di St. Marco.

Bartolomeo was a friar of the convent of St. Mark, at Florence. The immortal Raphael visited him

him in this city, and studied under him for some time, where he formed his second manner from his example and instructions. The pictures of Bartolomeo are very scarce even in Italy.

The Judgment of Hercules, by N. Poussin.

This fine picture has been engraved by Sir Robert Strange.

Diana and Nymphs, by Zuccarelli.

A small cabinet picture, beautifully coloured; the frame carved by Gibbon.

St. John the Baptist and Lamb, by Schidoni.

A Holy Family, by ditto.

The CABINET ROOM, is so called on account of a magnificent piece of ornamental furniture, which has long been stationed in this apartment. This complicated curiosity is ornamented in the centre with a portrait of Pope Sixtus the Fifth, and surrounded with about twenty heads of the Peretti family, from one of whom his nephew descended, and he retained the name. The last of this family was a Nun, who bequeathed the cabinet to a convent at Rome, where Mr. Hoare purchased it.

The principal pictures in this room are,

Three Views of Buildings, by Canaletti.

St. Mark's Palace, at Venice, and two smaller views in the same city.

B 4

A Landscape,

A Landscape, Break of Day, Peasants going to Market, by Gainsborough *.

A well finished and masterly performance of this eccentric, but *great English* artist.

A Landscape, (*Lake of Nemi,*) by Claude.

Engraved by Vivares, whose etchings of landscapes are invaluable. There is a *freedom of stroke*, and spirit of execution in the plates of this artist, which *none* of our engravers have ever equalled. Mr. T. Ponney has followed his style with happy success, and thereby acquired a fame which will last longer than any of his copper-plates.

A Holy Family. It is doubtful whether this picture was painted by Guido or Annibal Carracci.

The Flight into Egypt, by Carlo Marratti.

Bellori has written a life of this artist, in which this picture is described.

Portrait of an Old Woman, by Murillo.

Marriage of St. Catherine, by Fred. Baroccio.

In the bed-chamber, adjoining this room:

A Battle Piece, by Borgognone.

* The reader will be much interested and amused by looking into the *character* of this ingenious painter, as written by his friend Mr. Jackson, of Exeter, and published in a miscellaneous volume entitled "Four Ages, and other Essays."

A Moon-Light

A Moon-Light Scene, with Gipsies sitting round a Fire, by Rembrandt.

This has been engraved by Canot.

A Head of St. Francis, by Guido.

A design for an Altar-piece, by Spagnoletto.

St. John in the Wilderness, by Titian.

This appears to be the original design for the picture painted by this artist in the church of Santa Maria Maggiore, at Venice. The only alteration is in the figure of St. John ; in this piece he is sitting, in the other, standing. The figure of the lamb is the same.

An Old Man's Head, by Schidoni.

The Pastor Bonus, by Guercino.

The Marriage at Cana. Mary Magdalen washing the Feet of our Saviour, by Paul Veronese.

The original design for this artist's celebrated picture in the Durazzo Palace, at Genoa.

The above Six are fine spirited sketches on paper.

In sketches, there is neither trick nor deception to deceive the judgment and impose upon the fancy, as is the case in many highly-finished paintings. In these, we behold the artist undisguised, unsophisticated ; his genius, execution, and mind, are discovered at a glance. Sketches are invaluable studies for the young artist ; in

them he may behold the first ideas, warm from the imagination, and speaking the mind of those great men; who, by their paintings, have arisen to the zenith of celebrity. Good sketches, by the old masters, are very valuable, and universally esteemed.

A Holy Family, painted on vellum, by Leonardo da Vinci.

In the OUTWARD HALL are two small antique statues of Jupiter and Juno; and some neatly chiselled *Basso Relievos*, by Rysbrach.

The walls of the STAIR-CASE are covered with paintings. I shall briefly notice two or three of the best:

A View of the Lake of Nemi, by Wilson *.

Moon-Light, by Vernet. A Sun-Rise, ditto. Storm at Sea, ditto. Vide the preceding account of Wardour Castle.

The SALOON, a large handsome room, measuring forty-five feet by thirty, contains several paintings.

The Judgment of Midas, by Sebastian Bourdon.

The Adoration of the Magi, by Ludovico Candi, commonly called Cigoli, from the castle in which he was born. He also obtained the name

* In the Supplement to Pilkington's Dictionary, is an interesting account of this sublime and skilful landscape-painter.

of Civoli, and the Florentine Correggio ; the latter was conferred on him as a complimentary appellation after he had painted a very fine piece of the Martyrdom of St. Stephen.

Cigoli executed this picture for the Albizzi family at Florence, and placed it as an altar-piece in their chapel, in the church of St. Pietro Maggiore. It bears the painter's name and *date*, (1606) and is esteemed one of his finest productions.

The Meeting of Jacob and Esau, by Rosa di Tivoli.

Gamesters and a Fortune-Teller, a good dark picture, by Michael Angelo da Caravaggio.

Portrait of a Prelate, by Dominichino.

David and Goliath, by Francisco Mola.

Many of the pictures hang on hinges fixed to the sides of the frames. This ingenious contrivance enables the spectator to view them in suitable lights.

In the LIBRARY is a fine original picture of the Madona and Child, by Guercino.

In another library (which is seldom shewn to strangers, being a private apartment) are seven very *fine water-colour drawings* by Du Cros. The subjects are Views of Tivoli ; the Amphitheatre of Rome ; the Grand Water-fall of Terni, &c. The latter is peculiarly distinguished by the brilliancy and transparency of its water.

But

But the most beautiful of these drawings is a View of Constantine's Arch at Rome, which, by all the artists who have viewed it, has been esteemed the finest drawing ever executed. This artist is a native of Switzerland; who, from an enthusiastic admiration of the beauties of nature, has fixed his abode in Italy. The superior excellence of his drawings is owing to his strict attention and imitation of nature. They are coloured in the open air; and from this circumstance arise their principal beauty and fidelity.

He learnt his art without any instruction, and at a late period of his life. I knew him (says Mr. Knight, in a note to me) in the year 1776, a banker's clerk at Iverdun; where he first took to drawing for his amusement, and immediately had such success in copying nature, that he came to Rome, and became a professed artist the next year.

This apartment contains a rich collection of English topography. Another room is filled with a rare and extensive collection of Italian history, &c. There are also innumerable drawings and prints for illustration; among them are some of Mr. W. Turner's best drawings of Salisbury cathedral, and a complete collection of ALL the tombs and monuments. This collection is rendered still more important and valuable by the addition

addition of several hundred original drawings by Sir Richard, who seldom suffers a beautiful or interesting scene to escape his faithful pencil.

Were the majority of English nobility and gentry to employ their *leisure* time like this gentleman, the national character would shine with additional lustre. Foreigners might then behold the beauties and curiosities of the whole kingdom in a few port folios; or, if they still wished to view the originals, a clue (now wanting) to direct their enquiries, would be found in the libraries of the nobleman.

What a glorious epoch to anticipate! an epoch "most devoutly to be wished." If the pursuits and partialities of many distinguished personages of the present day, are imitated and adopted by the rising generation, it is an epoch we may hope will soon arrive.

Having described the principal *domestic* curiosities of this collection, I will next introduce the reader to some Arcadian scenes, which are situated on the banks of Stour.

The visitor is generally conducted, by a winding path through the gardens, to the lake, hanging woods, temples, and grottoes.

The river *Stour*, which takes its rise about a mile above the gardens, at a place called the
Six

Six Wells, here collects its waters and forms a fine natural lake.

A piece of water, in any situation contiguous to a gentleman's seat, always pleases. This does more, it commands admiration; for *here* the eye is not disgusted with those strait-lined, and flat banks, which too often accompany what is termed "*made-water*." We are delighted with its playful windings, its deep recesses, its richly wooded, and tastefully ornamented, borders.

At the Six Springs is a curious ancient cross, adorned with four figures in niches. It was brought from Bristol, where it was known by the name of *Peter's Pump*, and erected at Stour-head on a rustic arch of stones.

Among the improvements made by Sir Richard is the removal of a wide-stretched Chinese bridge, which formerly crossed the lake, and but ill accorded with the scenery, or the Grecian buildings surrounding it. A ferry boat now supplies its place.

—————"NATURE HERE

Has with her living colours form'd a scene
Which Ruysdael best might rival, *chrystal lakes*
O'er which the *giant oak*, himself a grove,
Flings his romantic branches, and beholds
His reverend image in the expanse below."

MASON'S GARDEN.

Having

Having crossed the lake, I followed the path to the left, ignorant of its destination; it led to the grottoes, a place of which I had often heard, though I knew neither its situation nor character. It will be impossible for me to describe the awful sensations which I experienced on entering its gloomy cells; my fancy was set afloat on the ocean of conjecture, and imagination conjured up thousands of those ideal images that poets have described, and such painters as a Fuselli and Mortimer have delineated, giving to

———“ Airy nothing,
A local habitation, and a name.”

But whatever were my reveries, I cannot consider myself as authorized to relate them while upon the present subject. The novelist may range through the realms of fancy free and unfettered; he may traverse the fairy fields of imagination without restraint, and give a loose to his invention without controul; but the pages of the traveller should be appropriated to *faithful narration*, and such reflexions as seem naturally to arise from his subject.

This grotto is truly admirable for its natural beauty and simplicity. ——

“ The walls are cover'd with the choicest spar,
“ And curious fossils gather'd from afar.”

STOURHEAD, &c.

Its

Its seclusion among the woods, contiguity to the waters, subterranean approach, rattling cascades, marble bason, and silent statues——

“ Gleaming with imperfect light,”——

Cannot fail of inspiring the solitary wanderer with plaintive musings and interesting reflections.

Horace Walpole* says, that grottoes in this climate are only recesses to be looked at transiently. When they are regularly composed within of symmetry and architecture, as in Italy, they are only splendid improprieties. The most judiciously, indeed most fortunately placed grotto, is *that of Stourhead*, where the river bursts from the *urn* of its *god*, and passes on its course through the cave.

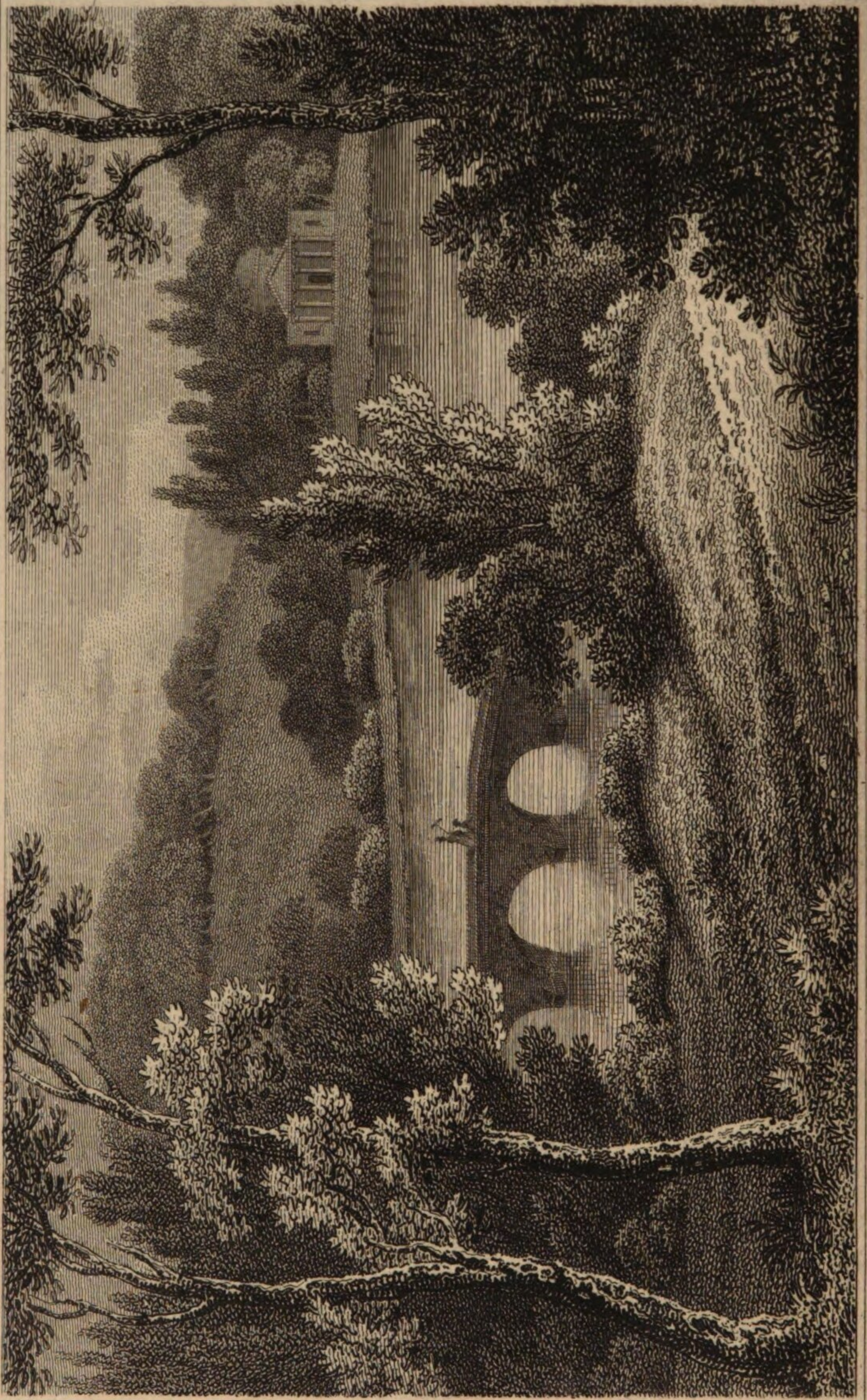
The marble bason is used as a cold bath, and placed in a recess ; behind it is an elegant figure of a sleeping nymph.

These lines, written by Mr. Pope, are engraven on the margin of the bath.

“ Nymph of the grot—these sacred streams I keep,
And to the murmur of the waters sleep ;
Oh ! spare my slumbers, gently tread the cave,
And drink in silence, or in silence lave.”

* Anecdotes of Painting in England, Vol. IV.

Quitting



Sir Rich. C. C. Moore del.

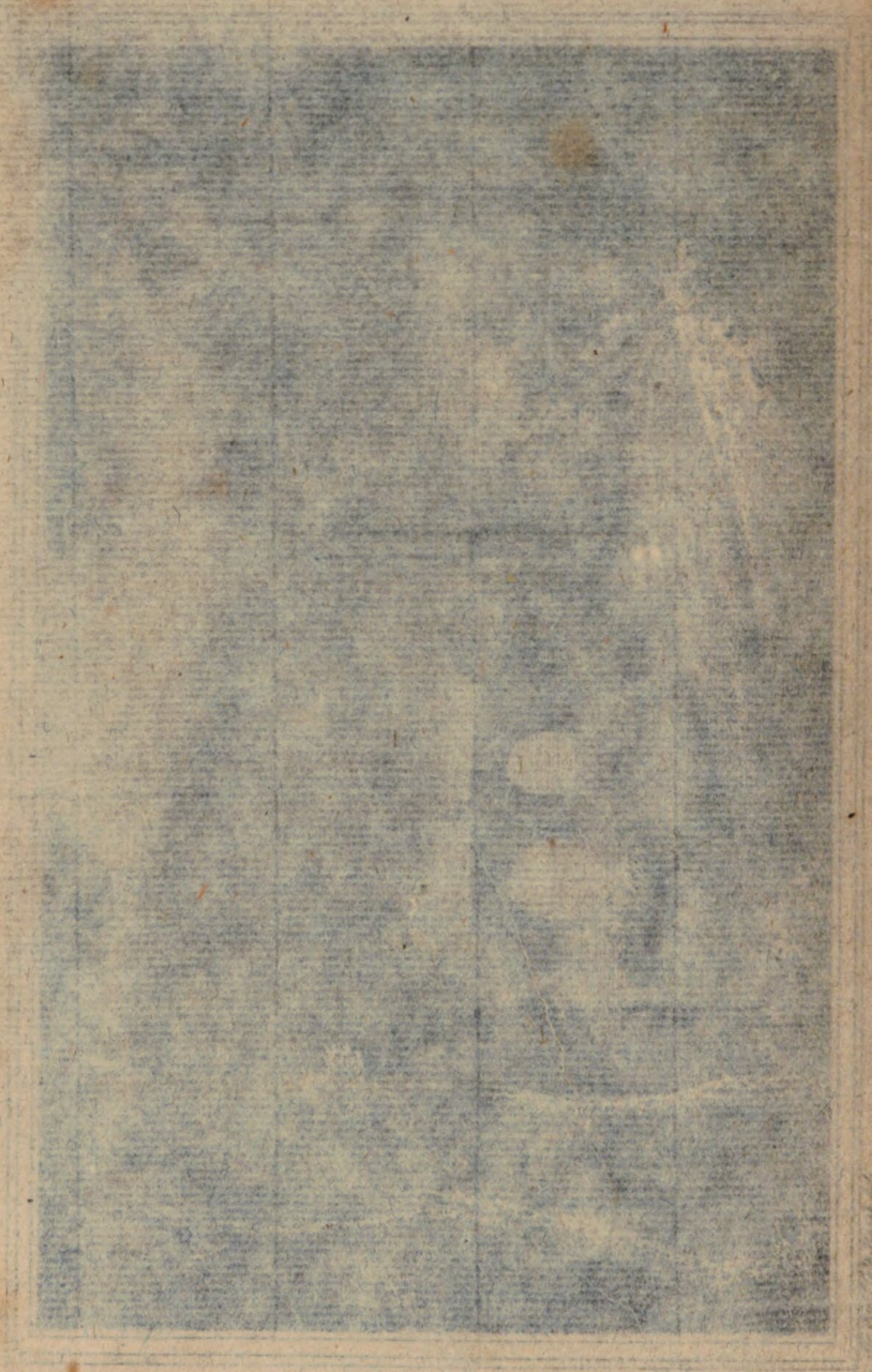
Stourhead

VIEW IN STOURHEAD GARDENS.

Quitting the salubrious shade, I ascended a flight of steps to a small room, which a passage brought me to the Pantheon. The front of this building displays a rich variety of architectural beauties. The temple, the tower, the village tower, the ornamental temple, the bridge, and a small rustic bridge, together form a most astonishing sight, while the whole scene is harmonized and reflected from the liquid bosom of the translucent stream.

This building is situated on the border of the lake, and embosomed in a thick wood. It is built in imitation of the Pantheon at Rome, and derives its name from that circumstance. It contains a rotunda of about thirty-six feet in diameter, which is lighted from the cupola, and adorned with several statues placed in appropriate niches. Over the niches are characters in relief. The principal statues are an antique in marble of Livia Augusta, brought from Rome (formerly called Ceres) a Greek, and an Italian, by Rysbrack. The latter is acknowledged to be the chief-dance of the artist. It is, unquestionably, a fine piece of workmanship. Mr.

* A view of the building, the bridge, lake, and accompanying scenery, is given in the annexed plate, from a very clever drawing by Sir Richard Boscawen.



Quitting this subterranean abode, I ascended a flight of unhewn stones into open day ; a few paces brought me to the Pantheon *. The front of this building discloses a rich theatre of congregated beauties. The woods, the cross, the village tower, the ornamental temples, the island, and a small rustic bridge, together burst upon the astonished sight, while the whole assemblage is harmonized and reflected from the liquid bosom of the translucent mirror.

This building is situated on the border of the lake, and embosomed in a thick wood. It is built in imitation of the Pantheon at Rome, and derives its name from that circumstance. It contains a rotunda of about thirty-six feet in diameter, which is lighted from the cupola, and adorned with several statues placed in appropriate niches. Over the niches are characteristic basso relievos. The principal statues are an antique in marble of Livia Augusta, brought from Rome, (formerly called Ceres) a Flora, and an Hercules, by Rysbrach. The latter is acknowledged to be the *chef-d'œuvre* of this artist. It is, unquestionably, a fine piece of workmanship. Mr.

* A view of this building, the bridge, lake, and accompanying scenery, is given in the annexed plate, from a very clever drawing by Sir Richard Hoare.

Walpole calls it "an exquisite summary of his skill, knowledge, and judgment."

Emulation is the great incentive to perfection. Roubiliac and Scheemaker contended with Rysbrach for the laurel of perfection. The latter, piqued at the success of his rivals (both of whom were then in high estimation) resolved upon, and quickly executed, this athletic statue. The head he borrowed from the Farnesian god, the arms he copied from Broughton*, the breast from a noted bruising coachman, and the legs from Ellis, the painter. Thus completed, it remains a durable monument of the skill of the artist, and of the times when pugilistic brutality was sanctioned and encouraged.

Going round the lake, I pursued a path which leads by rude and rocky steps, *over* the village road, to another part of the gardens. Having ascended the hill, I went through the Hermit's cell, and soon arrived at the temple of Apollo; this is built in imitation of the temple of the sun, at Balbeck. From hence the prospect is ex-

* Broughton was proprietor of an academy for teaching the polite art of "Boxing," in Tottenham Court Road. Ellis, who like two or three other painters, preferred the company of blackguards to that of the Graces, was a constant attendant in this "school of cruelty." For the honour of humanity, let us hope that this diversion will *never be revived*.

tensive and pleasing; it comprehends a fine view of the whole gardens, Alfred's tower, &c.

Passing *under* the same village road, I crossed a small bridge of three arches, and having visited the temple of Ceres, passed on to the rich cross, which stands at a little distance.

After saying thus much on the gardens, it would be almost unpardonable were I to omit the description of this cross, which is the most interesting building here; and, for richness of execution, and fine preservation, is probably unequalled by any now remaining in England. It formerly stood at Bristol, and was denominated the "High Cross," but being in the way of some alterations, the citizens sold it to Mr. Hoare, who gladly conveyed it to Stourhead.

On a print, engraved by Toms, from a drawing by West in the year 1737, we are informed that it was stationed near the church of St. Augustine. Under the view, is the following historical account:

"The High Cross at Bristol was first erected in 1373, in the High-street, near the Tolsey; and, in succeeding times, it was adorned with the effigies of four kings, who had been benefactors to the city; viz. King John, facing north, to Broad-street; King Henry the Third, east, to Wine-street; King Edward the Third, west, to Corn-
c 2 street;

street; and King Edward the Fourth, south, to High-street.

“ In the year 1633, it was taken down, enlarged, and raised higher, and four other statues were then added; viz. King Henry the Sixth, facing east; Queen Elizabeth, west; King James the First, south; and King Charles the First, north; the whole was painted and gilt, and environed with iron pallisadoes. Being found incommodious, by obstructing the passage of carriages, it was again taken down in 1733, and is now erected in the College-green; the figures facing the same points as before. It is painted in imitation of grey marble. The ornaments are gilt, and the figures painted in their proper colours.”

In another engraved view, by Buck, 1734, its height is said to be thirty-nine feet six inches*.

Having visited every place worthy of attention in the vicinity of the house, I proceeded to the parish church of Stourton, which is a neat Gothic building. It contains several monuments of the Stourton family, and also those of Henry Hoare, Esq. the first proprietor of this estate, and of his son and successor, the late Henry Hoare, Esq.

* Within four inches of the height of Waltham Cross, in Essex.

The following spirited characteristic lines, by Mr. Hayley, are inscribed on this monument:

“ Ye who have view’d, in pleasure’s choicest hour,
The earth embellish’d on these banks of Stour;
With grateful reverence, to this marble lean,
Rais’d to the friendly founder of the scene.
Here with pure love of smiling Nature warm’d,
This *far-fam’d demy-paradise he form’d*;
And happier still, here learn’d from Heaven to find
A sweeter Eden in a bounteous mind.
Thankful, these fair and flowery paths he trod;
And priz’d *them* only as they led to God.”

Mr. Gough, in his additions to Camden, has this passage:

“ In Stourton church is a monument for William, second Lord, who died 1522, and his Lady, Thomasine. In the windows are painted some hand-barrows, which they pretend were used by Botolph Stourton, whom they make nine feet and a half high, to carry off his dead when he fought the Conqueror on Bonhomme Down.”

The painted glass is gone, but the monument remains; and that the above-named Botolph was a man of gigantic stature, two circumstances conspire to induce a belief, tradition, and a large thigh bone, (the os femoris of a human skeleton) now preserved, and said to have belonged to this gentleman. This relic is now

in the possession of Mr. ———, at Bonhomme-House, and measures twenty-two inches in length, from the head to the lower end, which articulates with the tibia, or leg-bone; twenty-one inches in circumference at the head, or where it joins the os ilium; the smallest part, or middle, eleven inches and a half. The length of the os femoris of a common-sized man, is commonly about eighteen or nineteen inches.

Leaving the village of Stourton, my attention was arrested by a pleasing cascade formed by the overflowing waters of the lake. Having passed this, I followed the road to the convent, a small rustic building encircled by woods, at the distance of about a mile from the village. It contains a few paintings; particularly a curious piece dug out of the ruins of Glastonbury Abbey, and an ancient painting of our Saviour. Hence, a winding path,

“Within the covert’s gloomy shade,”
led me to Alfred’s tower.

This building is of a triangular form, with round towers at each corner. It is built with red brick, and was erected by Mr. Henry Hoare, to commemorate a signal victory which Alfred obtained over the Danes near this spot.

One of Alfred’s officers, whose name was Stourton, (supposed to be the before-mentioned Botolph)

Botolph) so greatly signalized himself in this battle, that the King made him Baron of Stourton, and gave him the privilege of fishing in the river Stour, from its head down three leagues below Christ Church, which right has been appurtenant to the manor of Stourton ever since.

The present Sir Richard Hoare's great-grandfather attended fishing the whole extent, about the year 1720. The people of Christ-church, (till lately) annually sent a salmon, or a brace of salmon-peal to the Lords of the Manor of Stourton, as an acknowledgment of this prerogative.

Tradition (which has commonly some foundation for its stories) says, that there was so much blood shed in the above-mentioned battle, that the water was stained therewith three leagues below Christ-church.

The tower is one hundred and sixty feet in height. A flight of two hundred and twenty-two steps leads to the top, whence the prospect is extensive, grand, and endlessly diversified, overlooking great part of Somerset, Wilts, and Dorset, which counties unite near this place.

In a Gothic niche over the door, is a stone figure of the great and good Alfred; under which is the following characteristic inscription:

ALFRED THE GREAT,
 A. D. 879, ON THIS SUMMIT
 ERECTED HIS STANDARD
 AGAINST DANISH INVADERS.
 TO HIM WE OWE THE ORIGIN OF JURIES;
 THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MILITIA;
 THE CREATION OF A NAVAL FORCE;—
 ALFRED, THE LIGHT OF A BENIGHTED AGE,
 WAS A PHILOSOPHER AND A CHRISTIAN;
 THE FATHER OF HIS PEOPLE,
 THE FOUNDER OF THE ENGLISH
 MONARCHY AND LIBERTY.

This hero, of *exemplary* character, a hero who fought no less than fifty-six battles by sea and land, was yet able, in spite of the troubles of the times, to acquire more knowledge, and compose more books, than many learned men who had none of these difficulties to encounter, and troubles to contend with. A subject that is congenial with our feelings and sentiments, seldom appears tedious; yet I must check my pen, and will conclude with a wish that we may deserve the inestimable benefits procured through the wisdom and virtue of this wise King and good man, by often reflecting on his usefulness, and imitating his *industry*, his *prudence*, and his *fortitude*.

On the road betwixt Stourhead and Longleat, is the village of MAIDEN BRADLEY, which
 is

is dignified with a seat of the Duke of Somerset. Camden informs us, that it derived its name “from a co-heiress of Manasser Bisset, (a very famous man in his time) who being herself infected with the leprosy, founded here a house for leprous maidens, endowed it with her estate, as her father had before founded a priory here.” Mr. Gough contradicts some part of this, and says that “Camden seems mistaken in making Manasser Bisset’s daughter the leper and foundress of an hospital distinct from her father’s priory *. The revenues of the priory were two hundred pounds a year.” This Manasser Bisset was sewer to Henry the Second, and, according to Mr. Gough, it was HE, and not his co-heiress, that founded this hospital; which Herbert, bishop of Salisbury, changed to Austin Canons. But it cannot be very material or interesting to dispute about the founder of a building which is now levelled with the dust, with all its leprous inmates, secular priests, and canons. This parish was possessed by Joshua, Earl of Northumberland, a man of a turbulent rebellious disposition, who was slain by King Harold, in the battle of Stamford Bridge, Yorkshire.

* Tanner, 601.

It has been more particularly distinguished in the annals of this county from having been the birth-place of Col. EDMUND LUDLOW, and the residence of his father Sir Henry Ludlow, who appears to have infused into the mind of his son those anti-monarchical principles which induced him to take so distinguished a part in the rebellion. Sir Henry was elected knight of the shire in 1640, and died 1660. Edmund, his son, was born in 1620; took his batchelor's degree at Oxford; studied the law in the Temple; became a volunteer in the Earl of Essex's army, and ever afterwards continued a zealous champion for a republican government.

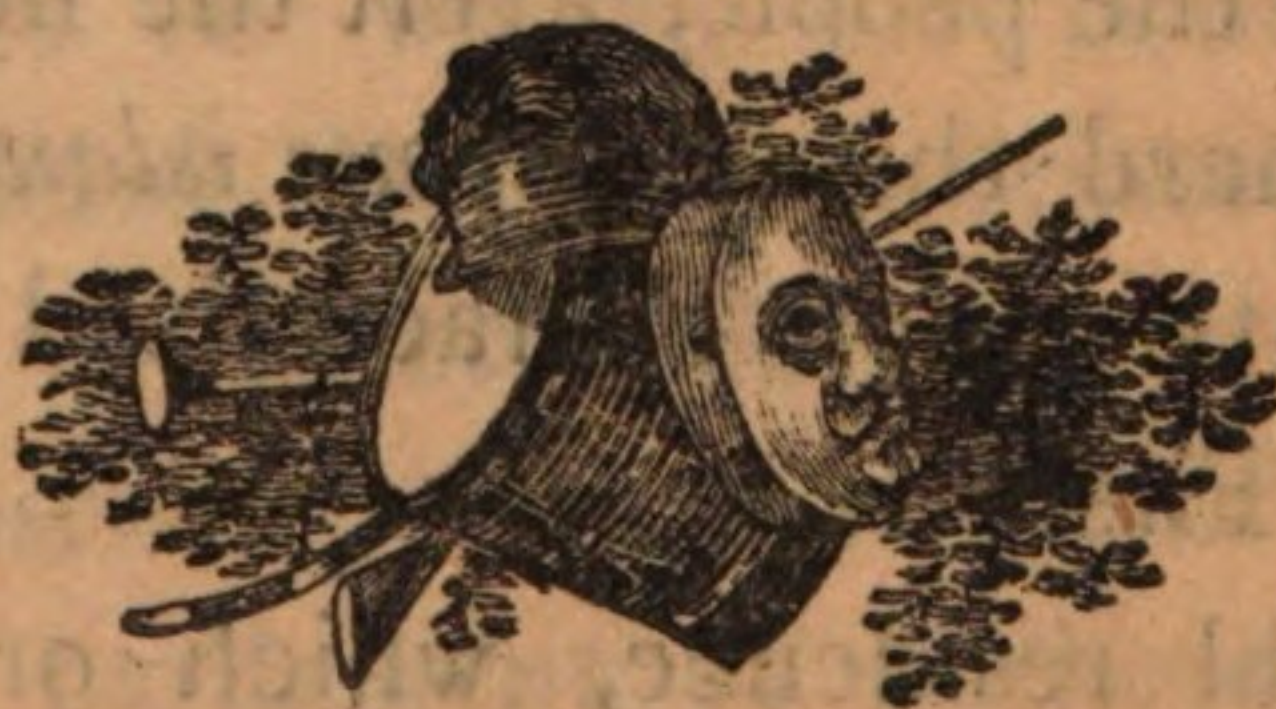
He sat in the pretended high court of justice, and signed the death warrant of his sovereign. Like some of the discontented French, who were accessory to the murder of their King, and who have since experienced the horrors and miseries which inevitably attend anarchy and rebellion, he was obliged to fly his native country; previous to which, he commanded an army in Ireland, but was dismissed from that appointment by Fleetwood, in consequence of having opposed the usurpation of Cromwell. In the new parliament of Richard Cromwell, he obtained a seat, and was again appointed commander of the forces in Ireland, from whence

whence he was obliged to return expeditiously, to answer to certain charges alledged against him by the army.

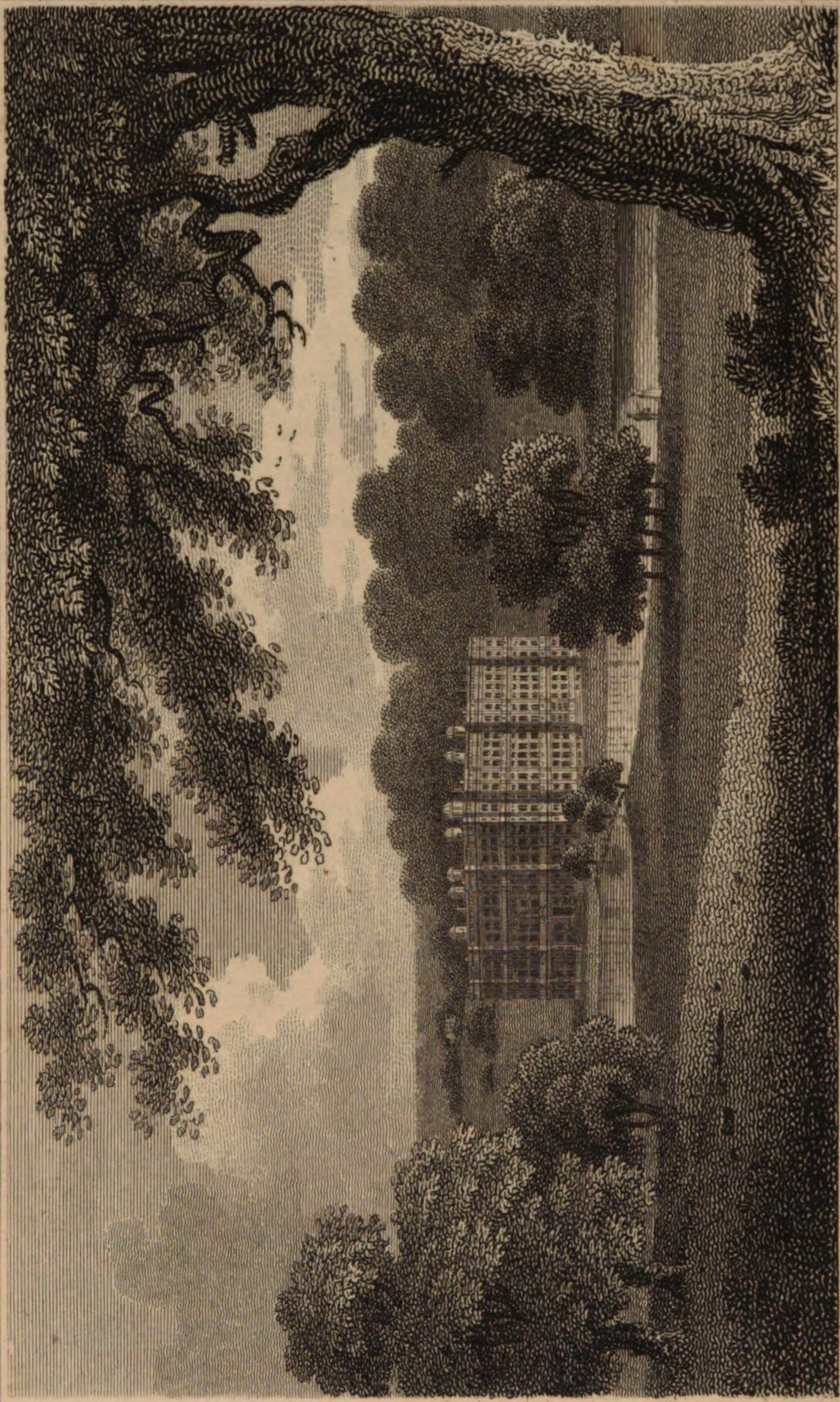
He took a very active part in several battles and skirmishes between the parliament forces and those of the King; particularly at Wardour Castle, Woodhouse Castle, and some parts of the plains, &c. in this county. But at length, finding that affairs were changing, and that the restoration of Charles the Second was inevitable, he shrunk into retirement, and forsook the kingdom. He took up his residence at Vevay, in Swisserland, where he died in 1693, aged 74 years. His widow erected a monument to his memory in the church of that town. The memoirs of his life was a posthumous publication which he wrote during his exile. It has gone through two or three editions, and contains many curious particulars concerning the history of those unhappy times. May the wisdom and virtue of our ministry, and the good sense and prudence of the people, avert the horrors of civil war, and guard this *beauteous island* from those direful events which characterized the times of Charles the First.

The Ducal residence, which ornaments this village, is situated close by the parish church. It is a comfortable mansion, built in the style of
architecture

architecture that prevailed about Elizabeth's reign. It was originally designed only as a hunting-box for occasional residence, nor has it experienced much external alteration. It is built in the form of a Roman E, and is nearly surrounded with walls, as was generally the case with the family mansions of that period, which were connected with a town or village. It being seldom visited as a show-house, I do not conceive that a long description will be necessary. In the deer park, which faces the front of the house, is a high round hill, called Bradley Little Knoll, which is decorated with a hanging wood. The road which passes from Frome to Stourhead, &c. divides this knoll from a high range of hills, called Bradley Long Knolls, and is the western termination of the Wiltshire Downs, which advance majestically to the extremity of the county, and constitute a very conspicuous land-mark, overlooking most part of Somersetshire.



SECT.



Britten del.

LONGLEAT.

Storer Sculp.

London, Published April 2, 1801, by Verner & Hood, Printers, for the Beauties of Wiltshire.

IS the seat of the Marquis of Bath, Thomas Davis, who is stayed by the Marquis, has favoured me with a corrected, and I believe correct, description of the ruins of Longleat, which has been before published. In the Marquis's person and talents, actively engaged for the public good, we feel it a duty to approach the Marquis. Mr. Davis has meritoriously improved his time in acquiring a knowledge of the ancient history of Longleat; and having been, for many years, engaged in directing the improvements of the last and present Marquis, must, of all other persons, be best qualified for a task of the nature. I feel it a duty incumbent on me to thank this gentleman for his interesting and candid communications, which I shall present to the reader in his own language.

Longleat, the seat of the Marquis of Bath, is four miles and a half from Warminster, and the

Longleaf

LONGLEAF

Longleaf Pine, Pinus palustris, Miller, is a native of the Southern States, and is the most valuable of our timber trees.

SECT. XV.

LONGLEAT,

IS the seat of the Marquis of Bath. Mr. Thomas Davis, who is steward to this nobleman, has favoured me with a particular, and I believe correct, description of it; some part of which has been before published. When we find genius and talents, actively exerted for the public good, we feel it a duty to applaud the individual. Mr. Davis has meritoriously employed his time in acquiring a knowledge of the ancient history of Longleat; and having been for forty years past engaged in directing the improvements of the last and present Marquis, must, of all other persons, be best qualified for a task of this nature. I feel it a duty incumbent on me to thank this gentleman for his interesting and candid communications, which I shall present to the reader in his own language.

Longleat, the seat of the Marquis of Bath, is four miles and a half from Warminster, and
the

the same distance from Frome. It stands in a valley, in that part of the county of Wilts which is bounded by the great tract of woodland, formerly part of the forest of Frome-Selwood, in Somersetshire, on the west; and by the beautiful abrupt breaks and jettees called Warminster and Deverill-Hills, which terminate the Wiltshire Downs on the east and south.

A considerable branch of the river Frome runs through the valley, and on this the house stands. The beautiful disposition of the hills to the east and south, covered with plantations by the late Marquis; the vast mass of native woodland to the west; and the peculiar situation of the valley, which, as far as the eye can reach, appears to be an immense bason of rich country, verging to the house as to a common centre, renders the view of Longleat, when seen from the adjacent hills, especially from Warminster approach, one of the grandest and most enriched prospects in the kingdom, and gives the house a degree of centrality and consequence, of which no other gentleman's seat can boast.

There are three principal approaches to the house, viz. from Wiltshire, Dorsetshire, and Somersetshire. In the former (from Warminster) we enter the grounds from the Frome turnpike road, immediately opposite the beautiful single hill,

hill, called Clay-Hill; and after passing through a fine curving valley, enriched with plantations, (which, a few years ago, was a barren heath) we find ourselves, almost imperceptibly, on the top of a very high hill, whence the prospect on every side is unbounded, and where the contrast between the open champaign county of Wiltshire, and the rich inclosures of Somersetshire, has a very charming effect. At the edge of the hill, we burst suddenly on the valley in which the house stands; although, from the latter being purposely hid by a venerable grove of trees, to give the traveller a previous opportunity of viewing the distant prospect, we do not see it until we arrive within a mile of it.

In this grove stands the stump of the ancient *Weymouth* pine, the mother of that species of trees in this kingdom; it has long since lost its top by a hurricane. There are also some of the largest firs of the Scotch spruce and silver kinds, particularly of the latter, in England; and many abeles of a great size, and upwards of one hundred and twenty feet high.

All these were planted by the first Lord Weymouth, about the year 1696, and are now at their full growth. There are likewise a profusion of venerable oak trees, the aborigines of the soil, of such large dimensions both in height
and

and girt, as are not to be met with elsewhere in the west of England.

In the Dorsetshire entrance (from Stourhead) we pass over a planted hill, whence we have a most delightful view of the neat village of Horningsham, with part of the park on the right, and an unbounded prospect in front of North Wiltshire, and the Gloucestershire hills; but the view of the house is purposely concealed till we come to the porter's lodge, which is built of stone in the form of a triumphal arch, whence the house forms the most magnificent *coup-d'œil* the imagination can conceive. It appears to stand at the end of an avenue, nearly three quarters of a mile in length, of full-grown handsome trees, so disposed as just to hide the extremities of the house, the eye seeing no limits to its length. As we approach nigher the house, this venerable avenue of trees, which appeared to be continued to the mansion, is so broken as to admit views of the water, and hanging plantations on our right hand, and of the vast mass of native woodland (in which is the garden) on our left; altogether, it forms one of the most pleasing and magnificent approaches that can be conceived.

The Somersetshire entrance (from Frome) has hitherto fallen short of the grandeur of the other
two

two approaches ; but a new road is now making by the present Marquis, through a fine wooded country, (part of the old forest of Frome Selwood) so as to emerge at once from the wood on the view of the west and south fronts. This road is nearly completed, and when his lordship's plan of removing the stables into a less conspicuous place, is carried into effect, will be every way worthy of the place.

In the south-east part of the demesnes, toward Deverill Longbridge, is a track of many hundred acres of land, which his lordship found quite a barren desert, but which he has so much improved by planting the hills, and lawning the vales, that it now forms a very striking contrast to the Wiltshire Downs, to which it nearly extends. In this part, at the head of one of the branches of the Willey-bourne river, called Shearwater, there is a lake of nearly forty acres, made by the late Marquis, which affords an agreeable and most unexpected variety to the scenery of the surrounding country. The demesnes, including the additions made by the late Marquis, contain upwards of four thousand acres, and are nearly fifteen miles in circumference.

Longleat was a small priory of the Monks of St. Augustin, dedicated to St. Radigund, and founded by Sir John Vernon, Lord of Horningsham ;

sham; but being in a very ruinous condition, through the neglect and mismanagement of the prior, &c. it was, by the consent of Peter Stanton, Esq. Lord of Horningsham, and patron of Longleat, dissolved by King Henry the Eighth, in the twenty-ninth year of his reign, and the perpetual presentation of it, with the lands thereunto belonging, was granted to John, Prior of the Carthusian monastery, at Hinton, in the county of Somerset, and his brethren, for ever. It continued a cell to that monastery only one year; for, in the thirtieth of Henry the Eighth, Edward Horde, prior of the above-named Carthusian monastery, with the consent of the convent, made a surrender of all their lands, houses, &c. (including the priory of Longleat) to the King, who, two years afterwards, granted the site of the priory of Longleat to Sir John Horsey, of Clifton, in the county of Dorset, and the lands belonging to the said priory, to Edward, Earl of Hertford. Sir John Thynne purchased the whole in that and the succeeding year.

It was not till twenty-five years after this purchase, that Sir John Thynne began to build the present mansion; previous to which, it is said, the old house had been partly destroyed by fire; for, by the books of the building of Longleat, it

it appears that the foundation of it was laid in January, 1567, and that the shell was not completed till 1579, after Sir John Thynne had expended thereon the sum of 8016*l.* 13*s.* 8³/₄*d.* exclusive of the materials of the old house, and of timber, stone, and carriage; an enormous sum in those days, to be expended in workmanship only! Sir John Thynne is said to have procured plans from Italy, some say from an architect called John of Padua, and by them to have built this magnificent pile. But it is certain, from his books of the building of the house, that he was his own acting architect; a stupendous undertaking, in those times, for a private gentleman. He died in 1580, leaving great part of the inside of the house unfinished.

Those parts of the house, which were left incomplete by Sir John Thynne, were partly finished by his son and successor; and it is very surprising, that during the debasement of architecture, and perversion of national taste, which afterwards prevailed, (particularly in the reign of James the First) no material mutilations, or alterations of the original plan should have taken place, as was the case with most of the old houses in the kingdom. It was reserved for the first Lord Weymouth (so created by Charles the Second, in 1682, a man of singular good taste and judgment)

judgment) to complete the house according to the original plan, and to finish the whole as it now stands. At a vast expence he put it in perfect repair, and furnished it in the utmost magnificence of the times; and when the Dutch taste of gardening was introduced into the kingdom, at the accession of William and Mary, he ornamented the grounds with chequered gardens, canals, fountains, vistas, and avenues, in all the extravagant and expensive taste of that reign, and left it equal, if not superior, to any seat in the kingdom.

His Lordship dying in 1714, and leaving his nephew and heir, the late Lord, an infant, and that Lord living only a few years at Longleat, and leaving his son, the present Marquis of Bath, a minor, very little was done to the place but barely keeping the house in repair for forty-one years; the late noble proprietor, on his coming of age, in 1753, finding the gardens and improvements in the grounds made by the first Lord Weymouth, quite in ruins, and the taste of the times entirely altered, he, with the advice of Mr. Brown, planned the park and grounds in the way they are now laid out; and from that time unremittingly pursued it till his death in 1796.

The

The house, which from its grandeur, strikes every beholder with astonishment, is said to be the only regular pile of Grecian architecture, of the sixteenth century, in the kingdom. It is an oblong of two hundred and twenty feet, by one hundred and eighty, and sixty feet high; it is built entirely of free-stone, ornamented with pilasters of the Doric, Ionic, and Corinthian orders, with enriched capitals and cornices; the inter-columniations are so properly attended to, that not a single extraneous ornament or variation is introduced in the whole building. It consists of three principal fronts, and the original design had a fourth front, which, as tradition says, was burnt down while building; and, it being necessary to have offices in that part of the house, the front was never rebuilt.

The whole three fronts are surmounted by an handsome balustrade; on the east and south sides of which are eight colossal stone statues, which, with the stone turrets and column-like chimnies, give the whole an air of grandeur and magnificence. The entrance to the house is by a flight of steps, with a handsome rail and balustrade; the door-case is ornamented with two noble pillars of the Doric order, of single stones, on which is an architrave and enriched frieze, terminated by an open pediment, inclosing a

shield with the family arms. The workmanship of this entrance is much admired.

The inside of the house was much more adapted to ancient hospitality than to modern convenience; but it has been repaired, and many additions made to its comfort and convenience by the late Marquis, with as little infringement as possible on the original design. The hall is truly in the stile of grandeur suitable to the house; it is sixty-two feet long, thirty wide, and thirty-four feet high, with a recess ten feet wider at the end. It is ornamented with the old baronial furniture of stags-horns, &c. as also with the arms of the family, and their relations and friends, as was customary in those days. It contains six capital pictures of fox-hunting, done by Wooton, for the late Lord, with portraits of his Lordship and his friends introduced therein, on which subject there are few pictures, if any, equal. At one end, behind a screen which supports a music gallery, is the old buttery hatch, ("worn, with use, quite off the old hooks,") and, on the other, the dining parlour, fifty feet by twenty-six, with a recess for the side-board. The whole of the ground-story is fifteen feet high; the second, eighteen feet; and the third, thirteen. In the middle story is a picture gallery of nearly one hundred feet long; and in the
third,

third, a gallery upwards of one hundred and sixty feet in length. Adjoining to the latter, is a very good library, which contains many curious books, and some valuable MSS.; one in particular, "The Chartulary of Glastonbury Abbey, containing copies of the original grants of the immense estates of that house," and many others of less celebrity. This library was stored with a most select collection of books by the Viscount Weymouth; to which very large additions have been made by the late and present Marquis. There is an arched cellar under the whole south front, two hundred and twenty feet in length. But, the greatest curiosities of the house, are the number of curious and valuable portraits which it contains, many of which are undoubtedly originals.

Upon the whole, Longleat, from its situation, as standing in one of the most fertile and plentiful parts of England, on the edge of the champaign and open part of the county of Wilts, and on the border of the rich inclosed land of the county of Somerset, partaking of the advantages of both; from its consequence, as being the center of a vast estate belonging to it, lying in both counties, and of course commanding influence in each; from its local advantages, as having plenty of wood and water, hill and vale,

and being a soil in which trees grow to the greatest perfection ; and though almost surrounded with great towns, having none within four miles of it, and from its vicinity to Bath, and convenient distance from London, may be truly said to be, not only one of the largest and most magnificent seats, but also one of the most desirable places of residence in the kingdom.

This was the opinion of the King and Queen when they honoured the Marquis with a visit in September, 1789 ; and this is the uniform opinion of every person of real taste, who has taken time to see and to examine all the beauties of this enchanting place.

In addition to the above valuable description, I shall make a few remarks (*en passant*). From some documents in my possession, it appears that Longleat has suffered more than once by fire ; Camden has this passage :—“ Longleat, the seat of the knightly family of the Thynne’s, descended from the Botteviles, built in the neatest and most elegant manner, though it has been burnt more than once *.”

* But this certainly alludes, first, to the supposed burning of the old monastery, and secondly, to the demolition of the north front before the house was finished ; for there is no trace or tradition of any damage having been done to the house by fire since its completion.

Sir

Sir James Thynne, in the year 1663, gave a magnificent entertainment to Charles the Second in this mansion.

Thomas Thynne, Esq. who succeeded Sir James, is a personage well known to the frequenters of Westminster Abbey, on account of his untimely death (being shot in his coach by assassins in Pall-Mall) and the dilapidated monument which commemorates that event. This gentleman, on account of his great fortune, was commonly called "Tom of Ten Thousand."

This Mr. Thynne was betrothed to the Lady Ogle, the heiress of the great Northumberland estates ; but being then a child, she was sent abroad until she should be of proper age to marry. Count Coningsmark met with her on the Continent, and formed the diabolical plan of getting possession of her by assassinating her intended husband. The latter he too fatally succeeded in, but escaped from justice, leaving the assassins employed by him to suffer the punishment due to his crimes ; and the lady was afterwards married to Charles, Duke of Somerset.

Mrs. Singer, the famous western muse, a native of Frome, afterwards married to Mr. Rowe, was patronized by the first Lord Weymouth, and spent much of her time in this house, in the exercise of her uncommon talents for poetry and painting ;

painting; as did also the good and venerable Dr. Ken, the deprived Bishop of Bath and Wells, who spent the remainder of his life in Longleat House; and both these distinguished persons were buried at Frome.

The Botteviles, ancestors of the Thynnes, came into the kingdom in the reign of King John, and seated themselves at Bottofield and Stretton, in Shropshire; which estates are still possessed by the present Marquis of Bath.

John Botteville assumed the name of *Le Thynne*, in the reign of Edward the Fourth; (the assumption of new surnames being in those ages common with great men) and the family have ever since used the name of *Thynne*.

William Thynne was much esteemed by Henry the Seventh, and was master of his household. He published an edition of Chaucer's works, and signed his name William Thynne, alias Botteville. Sir John Thynne, nephew to the above William, in the reign of Edward the Sixth, was first made chief officer to the Protector, the Duke of Somerset, and afterwards distinguished as his secretary and principal counsellor; in whose service he experienced some troubles and vicissitudes, being imprisoned here with the Duke, fined six hundred pounds, and deprived of several offices and valuable leases. But fortune (that capricious goddess,

goddess, who indiscriminately dispenses her smiles and frowns,) soon changed his condition. The Princess Elizabeth, afterwards Queen of England, made him her comptroller; he married Christian, daughter to Sir Richard Gresham, who brought him an estate of two thousand pounds a year; with which fortune, and the salaries of his offices, he purchased many of the abbey and chantry lands. *Fuller*, in his *State Worthies*, informs us, that in consequence of his vast riches and possessions, he excited the envy of a great earl and privy-counsellor, his neighbour, who caused him to be brought before the council-table, there to explain by what means he had obtained so quick and so great an increase of riches. The knight calmly replied to the interrogatories of his judges, "that his wife had laid the foundation by her large fortune; which he had augmented by industry and frugality." Sir John being exonerated from the charge of his envious neighbour, was honourably acquitted.

Thomas Thynne, son of Sir Henry Frederick Thynne, was the first of the family who was raised to the peerage, being created by King Charles the Second, Baron Thynne of Warminster, and Viscount Weymouth, in 1682. He dying without male issue in 1714, was succeeded

ceeded by Thomas Thynne, grand-nephew of Sir Henry, then an infant ; which Thomas was the son of Thomas Thynne, Esq. of Old Windsor, by Mary Villiers daughter of Edward Earl of Jersey. This Thomas (the second Lord Weymouth,) married Louisa, the daughter of the great statesman John Lord Carteret, afterwards Earl Granville, by his wife Grace, daughter and co-heiress of John, Earl of Bath, by whom he had three sons ; Thomas, the third Viscount Weymouth, born in 1734, created in 1789, *Marquis of Bath* ; Henry Frederick, now Lord Carteret, born in 1735, and James, of whom his mother died in child-bed, in 1736, and who died an infant. The unfortunate event of this lady's death, in the fourth year after her marriage, made such an impression on the mind of the second Vicount, that he resolved never more to live at Longleat, and actually retired to a *cottage at the adjoining village of Horningsham*, where he lived till his death in January, 1751 ; of course, few alterations or improvements took place at Longleat from 1736, till his son the late lord came of age, in 1755. This nobleman, endowed by nature with the best understanding that almost ever fell to the lot of man, and whose taste and manners, improved by education, and travel, under the particular direction of his grandfather

father, Earl Granville, were of the most finished kind, immediately on his coming of age, laid the plan, with the assistance of Mr. Brown, of the very great extensions and improvements which have since taken place at Longleat, and happily lived to superintend their uninterrupted progress for upwards of forty years, till his death in 1796, during which time he planted, without intermission, at least fifty thousand trees, on an average, annually, which are now in the most flourishing state. His Lordship lived to see great part of his plan completed, leaving a son (the present Marquis) every way qualified to succeed such a father, and who is now employed in finishing the place in that style of perfection which his father planned, and for which nature designed it; and of which the noble mansion-house of Longleat is worthy.

The late Marquis was married in 1759, to Elizabeth Cavendish Bentinck, sister of the present Duke of Portland, who survives him, and by whom he left three sons and five daughters. His son, the present Marquis, married Isabella, the daughter of Lord Viscount Torrington, by whom he has three sons and one daughter.

SECT. XVI.

WARMINSTER,

THE capital of the hundred of that name, is the most western town in this county. That it is very ancient we must readily believe, when we consider its situation, name, and the many important antiquities that have been discovered in its vicinity ; yet we find no mention made of it in Saxon times. Camden says, that its present name is derived from the Saxon compound of Wer and Minster, signifying a monastery. The same learned writer has likewise asserted that the ancient VERLUCIO, mentioned by the Emperor Antoninus in his Itinerary, was situated near this town. This assertion has given rise to much controversy among some of our learned antiquaries. Though I will not pretend positively to settle this contested point, yet I flatter myself that the following arguments will establish conviction in the mind of the reader. I have
already

already asserted*, on the authority of Mr. Lemon, that VERLUCIO was stationed near Heddington.

His authority is strengthened by adverting to its *situation*, which is nearly in a strait line with *Aquæ Solis* and *Cunetio*. Several springs rise in its vicinity. The famous Wansdyke runs close by it. The two formidable camps of Roundway and Oldborough, protect it on the east and south sides, and many Roman antiquities have been discovered in its neighbourhood. When so many circumstances concur to induce our assent to the credibility of a statement, to withhold our belief would appear to border on incredulity: yet I will not pretend to decide; where veteran antiquaries discover food for contention, it might be regarded as presumption and arrogance for a *puisne* antiquary like myself to determine the question peremptorily. It too often happens that man argues only for *victory*, and not for what ought to be the intent of all argument, the elicitation of truth. He dogmatically enforces his own opinion, without sufficiently attending to the arguments of his adversary. This pertinacity of opinion has produced more pamphlets than has ever been written in support of truth, or towards the eradication of prejudice. For my-

* Vide Vol. I. p. 40.

self, in every instance, I wish to *convince* my readers by unsophisticated arguments, and neither to insult his reason nor impeach my own judgment by unqualified assertions.

The most plausible objection that can be advanced against fixing VERLUCIO at Heddington, arises from the distances specified in the Itinerary, viz. from Aquæ Solis to Verlucio fifteen, and from that to Cunetio twenty miles. Reasoning from these admeasurements, Mr. Salmon has endeavoured to prove that DEVIZES is the Verlucio of the Romans ; and this, judging from the assigned distances *only*, certainly argues better with the Itinerary than any other place. Yet, as Dr. Warren, Dr. Stukely, and two or three other writers, have fixed this station at *Westbury*, it must be evident, that the exact correspondence of the British and Roman miles, is either unknown, or has otherwise not been sufficiently regarded ; and therefore that the computed *distance* between the stations, when isolated and detached from other evidence, is not a proof of that decisive nature which is requisite to warrant us in determining the contested situations of the respective towns.

Warminster, as appears from the Conqueror's survey, possessed the estimable privilege of being exempted from taxation. It has a very
large

large corn-market*, held on Saturdays. Both Leland and Camden speak of this. The former says, that "Warminster is a principal market for corn;" and the latter, that "it is scarcely credible what quantities of wheat are brought hither and sold every week." Its trade chiefly consists of the woollen-manufactory, and the making of malt. The clothing trade has, of late years, greatly increased, and is still increasing. The town, in every respect, has greatly improved within a few years. It has three fairs yearly for cattle, sheep, cheese, toys, &c. The police is maintained by the neighbouring magistrates, and by constables annually chosen at the *court-leet* of the Marquis of Bath, who is lord of the manor. The town consists principally of one long street, built chiefly of rough stone, at the western extremity of which is the church, a handsome building, with a square tower. For the conveniency of the inhabitants, a chapel has been erected in the centre of the town, where prayers are read ever Wednesday and Friday.

There are two dissenting meeting-houses here, a good market-house, an assembly-room, and a free grammar-school for the education of twenty

* Three hundred sample sacks have been brought here on one market day.

poor boys, in the gift of the Marquis of Bath; this is endowed with a salary of thirty pounds per annum.

About two miles to the west of Warminster is Clay Hill, where there is a small double trenched circular camp. Some antiquaries have supposed this place to be the *Æglea*, mentioned in the Saxon Chronicle, where Alfred encamped the night before he attacked the Danes at *Eddington*. But this, as Bishop Gibson observes, is very improbable; for Alfred, when *intending* to *surprise* the enemy, would never have pitched his tent on so conspicuous an eminence. The place where he encamped is called by Florence of Worcester, *Reglea*, which the Bishop conjectures might be a false writing for *act Lay*, i. e. *Leigh*, or *Ley*, from which village it is probable he marched in silence along the vale, then over spread with trees, and forming part of Selwood Forest.

The road from Warminster to Heytsbury, presents many important and interesting objects to the notice of the antiquary; extensive and commanding fortifications, Roman villas, and other objects, relative to the history and manners of the several classes of people who have inhabited this island. Though I am at present debarred entering into an investigation of the various

British, Roman, and Danish encampments, antiquities, &c. in this neighbourhood, yet I am enabled to present the reader with several curious particulars on these subjects, from the candid and friendly communications of Mr. Cunningham, of Heytsbury, a gentleman whose name I cannot repeat without feeling the most impressive sentiments of admiration and respect.

In tracing the *military way* from Sorbiodunum to Aquæ Solis, there will be found many Stations, among which the following appear to have been the most considerable:

The first station from the former place was, probably, near Yarnbury Castle, thence in a right line to Knook Castle, next Scratchbury Hill, then Battlesbury Castle, afterwards Clay Hill, and others between that and Bath. All the above named places are marked by formidable ramparts, and some of them inclose an area of considerable extent; for instance, the vallum of Scratchbury Castle contains forty-one and a half acres of land. It is a single intrenchment, situated on the apex of a high hill, and commanding all the valley between Heytsbury and Warminster. Battlesbury, which has a triple entrenchment, is about a mile north-west of the former. These stations have scarcely been mentioned by any writer. Knook Castle, as it

is called in the maps, is a small square Roman entrenchment, of about two acres in extent; it stands in the manor of Upton Level. It seems very probable that the Romans had a *castra estiva*, or summer station here, as several mounds of earth and long banks are visible on this spot; the abundance of pottery, coins, pieces of brass and iron, &c. which have been turned up by the moles, are all corroborating circumstances. Many of these coins (small brass) are in the possession of Mr. Cunnington; they consist chiefly of the following Emperors: Caligula, Alexander Severus, Maximus, the elder Philip, Posthumus, Claudius, Dioclesian, Constantinus, &c.—some of them are in good preservation.

The place which is probably the most interesting in this district, is PITMEAD. This is a large meadow situated between the villages of Norton and Bishopstrow, close on the banks of the river Willey, and under the protection of the two lofty castles of Scratchbury and Battlesbury. In the latter end of the year 1786, some Roman pavements were accidentally discovered in this meadow, a particular account of which was transmitted by Mrs. Down, then residing in Warminster, to the late Daines Barrington; these were afterwards published by the Society of Antiquaries, and accompanied with engravings.

The

The discoveries consisted chiefly of a Mosaic pavement, fifty-six feet long, by ten feet wide; a beautiful room, containing a female figure, supposed to be Diana, with a hare at her feet. The greater part of this floor was carefully taken up by order of the late Marquis of Bath, and is now at Longleat. In the autumn of 1800, Mr. Cunnington further investigated this spot, and discovered another room nineteen feet three inches square, the floor of which was composed of a rich tessellated pavement, comprising a circular area inclosed within a square frame, edged on the inside by a braided guilloche, and on the outside by a labyrinthian fret. From the rich specimens of Mosaic pavements found here, among which was part of a portico measuring sixty feet in length by ten feet in breadth, and from the great extent of the ruins, we may safely conclude that this must have been originally an elegant and extensive building. To the east of this villa is the site of another building, where the remains of a sudatory and bath have been discovered. When all these circumstances are considered, we cannot but acknowledge that the Romans had a permanent station here, though neither Antoninus, nor any other writer, has either designated, or described it.

These are not the only curiosities that have been found near this place. About three years since were discovered at Bishopstrow, half a mile from Pitmead, a vast number of small brass coins, nearly sufficient to fill a Winchester bushel; they were contained in three urns. Several hundred of these, also, are in the possession of Mr. Cunningham. I have abridged my observations on this subject from a consciousness of incapacity to do it justice; and from a hope that Mr. S. Lysons will soon execute his intentions of illustrating this, with other objects of a similar nature, in a manner which shall be found equal to his scientific and elegant work on the Roman antiquities of Woodchester. I shall now proceed to the pleasant little town of

HEYTSBURY,
commonly called Hatchbury.

It is situated on the river Willey, and gives name to the hundred in which it stands. It consists chiefly of one street, in an open healthy part of the county, on the borders of the extensive downs called Salisbury Plain.

It is an ancient borough by prescription, and sends two members to parliament. The right of election is in the burgage-holders.

This town was sometime the residence of the Empress Maud, when she contended with King
Stephen

Stephen for the crown of England. In the reign of Edward the Third, it belonged to Bartholomew, Lord Burghersh, and was afterwards the abode of the Baron Hungerfords. Thomas, Lord Hungerford, about the year 1400, built the church; and his successor, Walter, Lord Hungerford, lord high treasurer of England, founded an hospital for twelve poor men and one woman; and also a house for a school-master, who was to be a priest, and not only teach grammar, but overlook the poor men.

Margaret, his widow, obtained a licence for two hundred pounds, from King Henry the Fourth, to perfect this charity, and settle a chaplain in it, to celebrate divine service in the parish church, for the souls of herself and others.

The church is collegiate, having four prebends in it, belonging to the cathedral church of Salisbury. The building is spacious and strong, in the form of a cross, in the centre of which is a tower with six bells. The church-yard (as is customary in country places) is used by the villagers for a tennis-court.

Sir William A'Court, Baronet, has a handsome seat in the vicinity of this town.

Here was formerly a weekly market, and two fairs yearly; the first has been long discontinued, and there is only one of the latter, which

which is held on the 14th of May, for cattle, sheep, &c.

The town is in an improving state; principally owing to the introduction of the clothing manufactories, which are here carried on to a considerable extent.



SECT. XVII.

AGRICULTURE.—SALISBURY PLAIN, &c.

MY readers will recollect, that in the first section I remarked that the science of agriculture was of too much importance to be treated in a slight or cursory manner ; and at the same time I professed my intention of being more particular on the subject in a future part of the work. The promise then made I am about to fulfil ; and the following observations on the *rural economy* of the county, will, I trust, prove both interesting and satisfactory.

Individual comfort is the basis of national happiness ; and this can only be secured by proper attention to the science of AGRICULTURE. However extensive commerce may be the idol of the politician's worship, the theme of his panegyric, and the source of his joy, it is not the sole object to the culture of which the energies of man should be directed. The blessings of
existence

existence must ever depend on the *produce* of the *earth* ; and Ceres, of all the deities of the mythology, is the goddess to whom our chief prayers and oblations should be offered.

In the contemplation of the unbounded intercourse that Britain maintains with foreign countries, and the factitious splendour which that intercourse has generated, the recollection of our true interests has been too long enveloped. Riches have been concentrated, instead of spread, in direct violation of the acknowledged maxim, that the prosperity of the few can never compensate for the wants of the multitude. Thus clouds aggregate on a mountain's brow, and deposit those waters in overwhelming torrents, which, if their fleecy mantles had floated over the vallies, would have descended upon the herbage in invigorating showers.

Into whatever society the necessities or passions of man may have induced him to enter, or to whatever compact the power of events may have compelled him to subscribe, this proposition is self-evident, that 'his labour should at *all times* furnish him with a sufficient means of subsistence.' Whenever this axiom of congregation is broken, the bond of unity is abrogated, and man reverts to his original state of savage independency. Hence, the propriety of reflecting on
every

every circumstance by which the dissolution of social establishments may be prevented or retarded, becomes manifest; for the evils attendant upon anarchy, are too certain to be denied, and too dreadful to be palliated.

The question, as to the means by which the progress of discontent can be most effectually opposed, here presents itself. I answer, by the *improvement of agriculture*. If a sufficiency of food can always be obtained at a reasonable price, the most flourishing germ of revolution, if it does not flourish for want of nutriment, will be deprived of its vegetating power; it can neither bud nor blossom.

The productiveness of the soil can only be increased by continued *labour*, and a skilful application of the numerous fertilizing substances which the benignity of Providence has profusely scattered through every part of the habitable world. An enlarged population requires an extended or improved cultivation; this truth is irrefragable: it wants neither illustration nor comment.

Many of our late writers on political economy, are of opinion that the population of Britain has, within these few years, been considerably augmented. Admitting this to be the fact, the necessity of an increasing attention to the science

ence of agriculture is too apparent to be contested. The productiveness of any soil can only advance, if the hands employed in its cultivation form the chief part of the population of the country. In that case, the enlargement of the produce will keep pace with the augmented number of the people, and the supply will be abundant ; but if the labours of the majority of inhabitants are dissipated by a variety of contrary avocations ; if an undue patronage is bestowed on the shuttle and the lathe, while the reap-hook and the plough are, at best, but partially supported, the direful crest of famine will assuredly be upreared, and the fell monster will work his tortuous and devouring way through every quarter of the land.

If a great proportion of those persons who are capable of active exertions, in any state or country, are induced to abandon the cultivation of the soil for the purpose of engaging in manufactures, commerce, or any other employments, the progressive melioration of the soil must, from that moment, be arrested ; and even the productiveness which it had actually attained, must be diminished. The gradual progress of deterioration will subject the unfortunate inhabitants to a perpetual deficiency of food ; though the same soil, by proper exertions, may be made
to

to supply the quantity of requisite nutriment more than an hundred times over.

“ Thus does an inordinate desire of augmenting the business of the manufacturer, the trader, and the warrior, or any other that can be named, save that of the agriculturalist, necessarily tend, at the same time, to diminish the population and productiveness of a country; for no one will deny, that whatever renders the means of obtaining subsistence more precarious, or more difficult of attainment, must diminish population, and at the same time introduce a long train of other political maladies that have a perpetual and powerful tendency towards the abridgment of domestic comforts, and thus check every propensity to the natural increase of the people. While, on the other hand, so long as the people apply themselves principally to the peaceful pursuits of agriculture, population must go forward in a rapid progression, and augment to an indefinite degree, because perpetual abundance must insure both domestic comfort and public tranquillity *.”

The increase of manufactures, and the extension of commerce, have too long been the primary objects of parliamentary attention. The

* Recreations in Agriculture, by Dr. Anderson, vol. iv.

sources of national happiness have been wrongfully estimated. It has been supposed that abundance, and joy, depended more upon the bustle of trade, than the humble, yet exhilarating employments of the rustic and the husbandman.

It affords me peculiar pleasure to find the sentiments of a learned and liberal-minded writer coincide immediately with my own. Dr. Mavor*, in a letter to Mr. Pratt, which is this day published in his second volume of *Gleanings in England*, has the following energetic remarks on this subject: "When will it be felt, and confessed, that the *real power* of every country consists in its population, its *real wealth* in the abundant produce of the earth? The statesman, the legislator, who sacrifices those principles to gratify the avarice of individuals, and who exalts commerce above agriculture in the encouragement he gives it, will inevitably have cause to lament his mistaken theory of the welfare of nations." The truth of these axioms are feelingly experienced at the present moment. A *pretended scarcity* has given the mercenary monopolist full scope for the exercise of his avarice; the effects are *too well known*; the cause I

* Author of the *British Tourist*, *British Nepos*, and many other interesting publications.

have endeavoured to develope. I cannot forsake this subject without earnestly recommending to the *attentive perusal* of the reader the volume above quoted, in which this subject is treated in a style of reasoning, and cogency of argument, that cannot fail to convince every disinterested man. Mr. Pratt, who gives brilliancy to every idea that emanates from his pen, has in this instance been singularly fortunate; to his own glowing style are added the liberal sentiments of Dr. Mavor, and the truly patriotic deductions of Lord Warwick.

But the absolute necessity of strict attention to agricultural pursuits is at length acknowledged; and a late act of the legislature provides for the institution of a BOARD, whose researches are to be exclusively directed to this object. The knowledge of the various systems of husbandry, and consequent practices pursued in the different portions of the kingdom which has already resulted from its enquiries, must be of infinite use in establishing a more judicious and beneficial mode of culture than that at present employed. The merits of the institution are evident; why then should the due meed of praise be withheld?

My feeble endeavours to give additional efficacy to the efforts of a laudable establishment shall

shall not be wanting. In the present instance, my intentions can best be effected by inserting as concise, yet a satisfactory, view of the agriculture and produce of this county as my enquiries have enabled me to obtain, and the nature of this publication will admit.

Wiltshire, *agriculturally*, may be separated into two districts, by drawing an irregular line round the foot of the *chalk hills*, from their entrance into the north-east part of the county of Berks, to their south-west termination at Maiden Bradley.

The natural appearance, as well as the agricultural application of these two parts of the county, will warrant this division into *south-east* and *north-west* Wiltshire. The first comprehends the whole of the *Wiltshire Downs*, with their intersecting vallies and surrounding verges, whose general application is to corn-husbandry and sheep-walks; the latter, lying in a vale-like flat, is situated between the Downs and the hills of Gloucestershire, and celebrated for its rich pasture-land on the banks of the lower Avon and the Thames; but still more famous for the production of one of the most excellent kinds of cheese the island can boast.

The difference of the soil and produce of these districts, is very great. To assist the mind
in

in forming an idea of the respective operations employed in each district, I shall describe them separately, beginning with

SOUTH-EAST WILTSHIRE,

which is generally subdivided into two principal parts; one called Marlborough Downs, the other Salisbury Plain: the whole containing about seven hundred and eighty square miles, or five hundred thousand acres.

The distant appearance of this extensive tract of country is that of an immense elevated plain, intersected by deep vallies, and broken into numerous inequalities.

————— “ Such appears the *spacious plain*
Of Sarum, spread like Ocean’s boundless round,
 Where solitary *Stonehenge*, grey with moss,
 Ruin of ages, nods.” ————— DYER’S FLEECE.

Mr. Gilpin * has beautifully illustrated this idea of the poet; he observes, that “the ground is, indeed, spread *like the ocean*, but it is like the ocean after a storm; it is continually heaving in large swells.” The abrupt boldness and rotundity of the hills, may well justify the classic metonymy of the ground heaving into billows; but some other parts of this gentleman’s descrip-

* Western Counties.

tion do not so happily coincide with truth and accuracy. For instance:

“ Though Salisbury Plain, in Druid times, was probably a very busy scene, we now find it **WHOLLY UNINHABITED**. Through all this vast district scarce a *cottage* or even a *bush* appears. *Here and there* we meet a *flock* of *sheep* scattered over the side of some rising ground, and a shepherd with his dog attending them; or, perhaps, we may descry some solitary waggon winding round a distant hill. But the only *resident* inhabitant of this *vast waste* is the bustard.

“ It extends many miles in all directions, in some not less than **FIFTY**. An eye unversed in these objects is filled with astonishment in viewing **WASTE** after **WASTE**, rising out of each new horizon.”

Such a train of inaccuracies were hardly ever presented to the world in so rapid a succession. The Plain, instead of being wholly uninhabited, is interspersed with a multitude of villages. Wherever there is a valley intersected with a stream of water, there we are almost sure of finding a number of inhabitants. Neither is this *vast waste* so destitute of wood as the foregoing statement would lead us to imagine. The numerous dips and *bourns* are generally overspread with fine trees, many of which are so thickly clustered

tered on the banks of meandering rivulets, and assume such a variety of graceful forms, that I am astonished they should have escaped the observation of this essayest on picturesque beauty. The remarks in the quoted passages, appear to have been derived from the opinions of the ignorant, instead of being the emanations of his own mind. The Plain does not extend, in *any* direction, to the length of fifty miles; the common maps would have given better information.

It is of importance to contradict these assertions, because, from the known celebrity of Mr. Gilpin, a greater degree of credit is attached to his representations than would be given to the more accurate statements of an obscure writer. When, in addition to the above remarks, he informs us, that “these regions have come down to us *rude* and *untouched* from the beginning of time;” what other idea can be excited than that of sterility and desolation? What opinion can we form on the state of these wide-spreading plains, than that of their being bleak, barren, and inhospitable? Reader, the idea would be false; the opinion would be absurd. The busy hand of man is apparent in the cultivation of many thousand acres; and, like the industrious bee, he has built him a hive in every dell. The *solitary* shepherd, and the sheep *here*

and there scattered over the side of a hill, would induce us to suppose they were, but few in number, yet the quantity of these useful animals, gathering sustenance on the Downs, is assuredly not *less than half a million!*

It is unpleasant to comment on the errors of a popular writer; neither should I have done it, but from a reason of much more consequence than the one already mentioned. In an age when the *cultivation of waste lands* forms a principal topic of conversation, from the variety of interests involved in the discussion, it becomes a matter of infinite importance to ascertain correctly what lands *are waste*, and what are not, though *apparently* they may be. The observations of Mr. Gilpin are only calculated to mislead: a superficial enquirer, from deference to the general credibility of that gentleman's testimony, would consider the Wiltshire Downs as an absolute desert, wholly uncultivated, and entirely useless; a more erroneous conception could never enter the head of a human being, subject as he is to mistake and absurdity.

The state of agriculture on these famous plains has long been misunderstood; though in all probability, even now, they are of much greater utility than they could *ever* be, if broken up under a general bill of inclosure.

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The singular formation of the lands which constitute these Downs, the steepness of the hills, and, in some cases, their distance from the villages, almost preclude the possibility of supplying the arable land with manure by any other mode than the sheep-fold. The fields already in cultivation are very extensive, and the peculiar circumstances just mentioned, render the expediency of making sheep the carriers of the dung, extremely evident. But these animals must be fed, and the large tracts of pasture, or downland, which intersect every portion of the plains, are absolutely necessary for furnishing them with sustenance.

The sheep stock of Wiltshire has for many years been gradually decreasing; notwithstanding the seeming immensity of the above number, it is lower, by some thousands, than it was fifty years ago. The indispensable necessity of the sheep-fold for the production of corn in this district, makes this diminution a serious evil. Without the assistance of sheep, it is impossible to keep the fields of arable land in tillage; and the quantity of those animals now kept, is hardly sufficient for the *present* cultivation. The fatal consequences of applying the inclosing system to this part of the country, are therefore manifest.

The reasons of this diminution of sheep-stock are not very obvious, yet two causes which concurred in the defalcation, may be assigned; “the pride of keeping fine sheep, and the rage or fashion of late years for ploughing up the Downs;” the latter is in strict accordance with what has been premised.

The improvement of the *carcass* has but lately become a primary object; yet, being flattering to the vanity of the farmer, it has prevented him from attending to his real interest. His efforts ought to be directed to the maintenance of a breed of sheep, adapted to the peculiar circumstances under which a portion of the Downs is cultivated. The *dung of the sheep-fold* should be the primary object of the district; and the animal should possess sufficient hardihood to enable it to glean its food on a close-fed pasture; to walk two, three, four, or five miles for that food, and to return the same distance to the fold. If it does not possess these qualities, the improvement of the carcass is an essential injury, since the increase of one branch of produce causes a more than proportional deficiency in another.

The natural herbage of the Downs of Wiltshire is composed not only of almost every known kind of grass, but also of a mixture of various kinds of plants; and the sweetness of
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the feed depends much more on its being kept close, and eaten as fast as it shoots, than on any particular good quality of the grass itself ; but as the lambs bred under the fattening system will not live hard enough to keep the Downs close fed, many farmers have been induced to break up their lands, under the idea of improving the sheep-feed.

A great portion of these grounds is, at first, extremely productive, but the land being thin and loose in its staple, is soon exhausted with a repetition of crops ; the coarse natural grasses take possession of it, and a young tender-mouthed stock of sheep will rather starve than eat them. The necessity, therefore, of keeping that kind of stock which is most proper for the soil and climate of the district, and most suitable to the general manner of its application, is distinct and obvious.

Overplowing and understocking, in high exposed situations, and particularly where the arable land is light and loose, must always produce bad effects ; yet these are the natural consequences of keeping flocks of sheep for *beauty*, in countries where they ought to be kept entirely for *use*. Even the endeavours to breed *large handsome* animals, however commendable or profitable in places adapted to the practice,

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does not seem at all suited to the *bleak hills of Wiltshire*.

“ Warmth and shelter, are as necessary to produce perfect symmetry in the parts of an animal, as to unfold the wings of a butterfly, or expand the petals of a carnation.” Where these essentials to animal perfection cannot be obtained, the attempt at breeding for beauty is futile and ridiculous.

The kind of sheep which are chiefly kept in this division of the county, has been long denominated the *Wiltshire horned sheep*. Their wool is moderately fine, and particularly useful, being the kind of which the *second*, or what is called the super broad cloth (from 10s. to 12s. 6d. per yard) is generally made. The fleeces of a flock of Wiltshire ewes commonly weigh from two pounds to two pounds and a half each, seldom more than three pounds. The value of the wool has been, for a few years past, from ten pence to thirteen pence per pound. The weight of the carcasses of the wethers, when fat, is usually from sixty-five to a hundred pounds.

The necessity of a breed of sheep, whose qualities are particularly suited to the situation, has in some measure been felt, and several attempts have, of late years, been made to counteract the inconveniences experienced by a too great attention

tion to the increase of the carcasses ; and many *new* kinds of sheep have been introduced with various success. The South-down sheep, from Sussex, promises to be of most benefit. In point of proportional beauty, they certainly cannot be compared with the Wiltshire sheep ; how far they are superior in the scale of relative *merit*, time must determine ; but, as long as South Wiltshire remains a corn country, the *sheep-fold* must be the *sheet-anchor* of its husbandry ; and until a new method can be found to manure its hill-land, equally efficacious with the sheep-fold, breeding sheep, as a science, *solely for the beauty of the shape*, can never be introduced with success.

In a large part of the south-west skirts of this district, adjoining to Dorsetshire, great numbers of cows are kept, purposely for making butter ; some of which supply the cities of Bath and Salisbury, the remainder is consumed in the towns immediately in the neighbourhoods of the great cheese dairies of North Wilts, where butter is seldom made, except from whey.

Wiltshire has long been famous for the good qualities of its bacon. Its reputation in this respect, was obtained by means of the large, white, long-eared pig, which, when kept to a proper age, fatted with *corn*, and its bacon well dried with *wood*, became eminent through many parts
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of the country. That firmness of flesh, so desirable in bacon, was given by age; the hogs being frequently a year and a half, and sometimes two years old, when killed.

The prevailing pig of this district, is a cross between the *large Wiltshire* and the *black African*, or *negro*, a species that arrives at perfection earlier than the old stock. The usual weight of the carcass is, from ten to fourteen score; and, though the firmness of the old Wiltshire bacon is, in a certain degree, lessened by this mixture, the delicacy of the flavour of the mixed breed, and, above all, the increased profit in keeping them, make ample amends.

The application of the land is almost uniform; the rivers give luxuriance and beauty to the meadows which immediately adjoin them; the houses and small inclosures are seated as near to the streams as convenient. The arable land follows, till becoming too steep or too thin to plough, it gives place to the sheep or cow-downs, which, with the woods, are commonly situated at the extremity of the manors.

The system of watering meadows has been carried to great perfection in South Wilts. Though previously introduced, it was not generally practised, till about the commencement of the last century. The number of acres of land, under this
kind

kind of management, has been computed to be between fifteen and twenty thousand. For a detailed account of the important advantages attending on this branch of agriculture, and the particular modes in which the water is applied, I must refer the reader to Mr. Davis's "General View;" as my own pages are too limited to render the display satisfactory.

Many wonderful tales have been propagated respecting the ORCHESTON GRASS, and the astonishing fertility of the meadow in which it flourishes. Considering the frequent opportunities which botanists and agriculturalists have had for a full and accurate examination into its history, it seems surprising that it should have been so long imperfect and contradictory.

The different persons, who have written upon this subject, having entertained an idea that it was either a *peculiar* species, or a *peculiar* variety of some one species, have made their several reports descriptive of that particular kind which chanced to be flourishing at the season of inspection. Some assert it to be the *poa trivialis*; others the *agrostis stolonifera*; and one observer increases the uncertainty by declaring that, from his enquiries, he has not found that this species of grass grows in any other part of the kingdom.

The meadow producing the grass which has
excited

excited so much curiosity, is situated in the lowest part of a very winding valley, sheltered on each side by gradual, but by no means lofty acclivities of chalk. This valley forms a channel for the frequent floods which come down in the winter season, from Tilshead, about three miles distant; and, from the meadow alluded to being the lowest of the range, in regard to level, the water rests there to some depth, if it does any where; and, indeed, the place is rarely otherwise than swampy throughout the year. There is one spring not half a mile distant, and therefore, the water by which the meadow is often submerged, may at first be of a higher temperature than the surrounding atmosphere. The earlier the springs swell, the more plentiful is the succeeding crop of grass. This circumstance has constantly been remarked by the neighbouring inhabitants. A bed of small loose pebbles, which are all of a siliceous nature, with a scanty covering of mould, formed from the decomposed relics of former vegetable generations, constitutes the immediate soil.

The grass rooting in the interstices of the pebbles, sends forth strong and succulent shoots, which fall, run along the ground, take root at the knots or joints, and again shoot, fall, and take root; so that the stalk is frequently
eight

eight or ten feet in length from the original root. The produce is extremely exuberant and fine, though not more than seventeen or eighteen inches in height.

From the accurate observations of Dr. Maton, published in the fifth volume of the *Transactions* of the Linnean Society, whence this account is chiefly extracted, it appears that this prolific meadow is not composed of one kind of grass only, neither are the species peculiar to the spot; "the long grass of Orcheston is composed of most of the species which grow in other meadows."

Among the grasses enumerated, are the *holcus lanatus*, *lolium perenne*, and *agrostis stolonifera*, all which, when this gentleman last visited Orcheston St. Mary, (15th August, 1798) were pretty nearly of the same length, measuring about seven feet. Besides grasses, several curious plants are found in this remarkable meadow, all unusually strong and succulent, and strikingly tall.

The produce of these two acres and a half, in a favourable year, is immense. They have yielded upwards of twelve tons of hay in one season. Whenever the winter is productive of floods, the grass is abundant in quantity, succulent and juicy in quality, and exceedingly nutritive;

tritive ; cattle are very fond of it, and the hay is the most desirable in the district, particularly for sheep. The first crop has usually been cut about the end of May, and the second in July, or (which is rare) as late as the end of August. The tithes of the meadow have been rented more than once for five pounds, the produce amounting to twenty-five hundred weight of hay.

The crops of Orcheston grass, of late years, have not by any means equalled what they have been heretofore. Perhaps the gradual deepening of the mould may be the cause of this, as it must deprive the crop more and more of the advantage arising from the disposition of the pebbles, which seems to be a very important peculiarity in the situation.

The question as to the peculiar species of which this grass is composed, is not even now decided ; whether this arises from misapprehension of the import of botanical terms, from inaccurate investigation, or inadvertence of expression, it is not my province to determine ; the following remarks, with which I have been favoured by Mr. Davis, will clearly establish the circumstance of the disagreement, and, in some measure, correct the preposterous ideas to which the extraordinary tales promulgated of this grass, have given birth.

“ I still

“ I still maintain,” says the above gentleman, “ in contradiction to all who have written upon it, that this grass is no other than the *agrostis stolonifera*. I have seen the *mead* in all seasons. Many hundreds who have seen it, never saw the long grass at all; as it is not to be found in every year, and only for a few weeks in any year, of any greater length than the common grasses in other water meadows. In fact, its extraordinary length is only produced by the overflowing of the river on a warm gravelly bed, which, when it happens at proper seasons, disposes the grass to take root and shoot out from the joints, and then root again, and thus again and again, as is peculiar to that kind of grass; so that it is frequently of the length of ten or twelve feet, and the quantity on the land immense, although it does not stand above two feet high from the ground.

“ Travellers, who have read wonderful accounts of this grass (and much more wonderful accounts have been written than it deserves) expect to see it like the grass of Brobdignag, as high as the church steeple; and being disappointed, leave it, without taking pains to enquire into the real truth of the story. In favourable years the crop certainly almost surpasses belief; but when the land has not been properly saturated

saturated with water early in the spring, the crop is then no better, and frequently not so good, as in other watered meadows."

The herbage of the adjoining meadows is very exuberant; and this exuberance may be traced, increasing or declining, according as the soil varies more or less from that of the principal meadow.

At the distance of a mile or two miles from Orcheston, but in the same valley, some of the grasses may be seen to put on an uncommon luxuriance; there can hardly be a doubt, but that in proportion as meadows in other parts of the kingdom approach more nearly in circumstances and situation to that of Orcheston, the more similar their produce will be found. Orcheston St. Mary is about eleven miles from Salisbury, and nearly six miles north-west from Amesbury. The meadow is about half a mile from the village of Shrewton.

The principal kinds of grain sown in this district, are wheat and barley; the latter is the favourite crop. The climate, and a great proportion of the soil, (the flinty loams) are peculiarly favourable to the growth and quality of this grain; and the water-meadow and sheep-fold system are particularly adapted to its cultivation.

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The kinds of artificial grasses usually sown, are broad clover, and ray-grass, with an intermixture of trefoil, or nonsuch. The growth of saintfoin is but little attended to.

The cultivation of vetches, on the strong loams, as a preparation for wheat, is very common. Rye is frequently sown to be eaten off with sheep, but not often suffered to stand for a crop. Rape, or cole-seed, is much cultivated on the Downs, particularly on those parts that are ungenial for barley and turnips: the peculiar unfavourableness of many parts of the soil to the latter root, is probably the principal reason of its being so much neglected, that a turnip crop seems rather a matter of accident than of system.

Potatoes have of late been very much cultivated in almost every portion of this district, but particularly on the sand lands. The general introduction of this invaluable root has been exceedingly fortunate for the labouring poor, of whose sustenance they *now* make a very considerable part. The mode of preserving them during winter is very simple: they are in general left in the fields buried in long narrow pits, with an intermediate covering of dry straw. By this management, if perfectly dry when pitted, they are preserved during the severest frosts, as well as if they were kept in houses.

This mode of preservation being consonant with philosophical principles, is probably the best. The earth apparently is the most efficacious protector, as it clearly appears from various circumstances that cold can only penetrate it to a very trifling depth. The accurate observations of the celebrated Cassini, continued for three years in the caves of the astronomical observatory at Paris, have demonstrated that the temperature of the air, at forty feet below the surface of the earth, does not undergo a greater change than three-tenths of a degree.

Every friend to mankind must be interested in the culture and productiveness of this inestimable root. There is scarcely a country in Europe but has reaped and rejoiced, at the beneficial consequences that have attended its introduction. Even Britain, distinguished as she is for the infinite variety, and almost incalculable quantities of her produce, would at this moment be unable to sustain her sons, but for the assistance of this prolific vegetable. Whoever contemplates the march of events with a steady eye, and reflects on the important changes that continually arise from the progressive movements constantly operating on the vicissitudes of human affairs, may at once decide on the probability of the majority of the nation being,

being, at no far-distant period, reduced to the necessity of deriving sustenance from this article of food alone. I am sorry that propriety compels me to omit the mention of those particular modes of culture by which its produce might be increased. Even the kinds whose propagation seems to be attended with most benefit, are not generally known ; yet as I cannot enter into all the circumstances attending the investigation, I shall at once refer my readers to the fourth volume of Dr. Anderson's "Recreations in Agriculture," where some particularly useful details on the cultivation and different species of this deservedly famous root may be found, accompanied with many judicious observations.

The general manure of this district is the sheep-fold. The soils best adapted to barley, chiefly abound in those parts where the country is flattest and the rivers widest. This is peculiarly fortunate, because, as the water meadows are the most numerous in those situations, *barley land* and its *proper manure* lie contiguous ; as is particularly the case in the neighbourhood of New Sarum.

Soot and coal ashes are sometimes used for sickly wheat, and young clover. About Devizes, both arable and pasture land, whose soil is sand or sandy loam, have been greatly improved by

coal ashes. In the Pewsey Vale, peat ashes have been used with much success. These, with the woollen rags used in the Canning's Vale, are the principal of the temporary manures.

The permanent manures are lime and chalk : on some spots and veins of land, these correctors of the soil have been of very essential service. Chalk is particularly useful on the strong oak tree *clay*, or rather *loam*, in the valley at Mere, Sedgehill, and Semley; the deep and tough sand veins, and the red strong land on the higher part of the Downs. Lime is commonly too dear to be used as a general manure ; yet in those situations where it can be procured at a reasonable price, it has been found to improve the soil considerably ; especially where the sand veins run thin and light, and are mixed with gravel.

In the sand veins of this district drilling of all kinds of corn seems to be getting very fast into use ; and drill ploughs have been introduced with great success. The farmers generally plough with three horses.

The Wiltshire Downs are so well known for their cold and keen air, as to be almost proverbial. The height of the hills, and their exposure to the south-west wind, from the Bristol and British Channels, the paucity of inclosures in the vallies, and the draught of air that necessarily

sarily follows the rivers, contribute to make this district healthy both for men and cattle; but the length of the winters consequent to such a situation, is certainly unfavourable to many of the purposes of agriculture. In the summer season, the air teems with the rich fragrance that arises from the wild thyme, and various other herbs and flowers, which blossom and dispense their balmy sweets through every part of these extensive plains. These aromatics, spontaneously produced by nature, give nutriment to innumerable bees, whose honey is peculiarly esteemed by the dealers, as being of a superior quality and flavour.



SECT. XVIII.

AGRICULTURE.

THE NORTH-WEST DISTRICT forms a kind of double vale, dipping towards each extremity. It is watered by numerous springs and rivulets, some of which glide gently towards the Thames; those of the south-west fall more rapidly into the Avon. As the valley approaches the neighbourhood of Bath, it grows deeper and narrower, and the character of the country changes from a vale-like expanse to a broken surface, and crowd of hills, forming a style of country between the beautiful and the picturesque. This side of the county, both in external appearance, and internal component parts, bears a great resemblance to the Cotswold hills of Gloucestershire; except where a vein of clay lies so near the surface as to make it colder.

The vegetable produce of this district is chiefly *grass*; the greatest proportion is applied to support the dairy in manufacturing cheese.

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The consumption of this article of human food seems a matter of indulgence rather than of necessity; its invention may probably be ascribed to the delicate palate of the epicure, more than to the craving stomachs of the hungry; yet, being a principal characteristic of the county, and forming, as it now does, a most important branch of its commerce, I trust I shall escape censure, if on this subject I indulge a small degree of amplification.

Mr. Marshall, in his *Rural Economy of Gloucestershire, &c.* informs us, that the “North Wiltshire cheese is held in the *first* estimation among those who indulge their appetites;” that “it is of a soft saponaceous texture, and has a richness, and at the same time a mildness, which recommends it to many in preference to that of Gloucestershire;” even though the latter should be the produce of the favourite *Berkley Vale*. This evidence, given by such an experienced judge, renders any further testimony of its goodness unnecessary.

The system of making cheese, as pursued in North Wiltshire, would, doubtless, be of considerable service in many parts of the kingdom, if it could be introduced into them. The soil and situation of any two counties can hardly be more dissimilar than the different parts of this district;

district; yet the produce being regulated by skilful management, is equally good: a proof that the qualities of the article are more dependant on *art* than *nature*.

This cheese was, for many years, sold in the London markets as the produce of Gloucestershire, whose mode of manufacturing, it is probable, was originally imitated; but, as the spirit of rivalship is often the cause of attentive observation, the dairy-women of Wiltshire discovered the means of first equalling, and afterwards excelling their more negligent neighbours. In the few counties famous for *bad cheese*, the cause may be traced more frequently to some fundamental error in the process of making, particularly in the article of *rennet*, than to any local fault in the soil and situation, or even to the want of attention and care in the managers of the dairy.

There is hardly any single circumstance that contributes so much to the excellence of the dairy system of this district, as the central situation of the houses, which enables the servants to put all the milk together of an equal temperature, by giving them the opportunity of driving the cows home to milk, instead of milking them in detached and distant inclosures.

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The sorts of cheese made here are various; but the common make of the district consists of Thin Cheeses, Broad-Thick, and Loaf-Cheeses. "The Thin and Broad-Thick kinds," says Mr. Marshall, "are similar to those of the vale of Berkley; and are sold in London as double and single Gloucester. It is the narrow Loaf-Cheese that goes under the name of North Wiltshire, and which has of late years become so high in fashion, as to fetch fifteen or twenty shillings a hundred weight more at market, than Thin Cheese of perhaps a superior quality." For specific details of the modes of making cheese, as practised in the best dairies, I must direct the reader to this gentleman's book, already quoted. In accuracy of investigation, and perfect knowledge of rural affairs, Mr. Marshall is perhaps unequalled. The annual produce of this district, in this article, is calculated at five thousand tons.

The quantity of cows requisite to supply milk for such an immense produce, is extremely large; but I have no data by which I can estimate the number. They are of two kinds, the long-horned, and the Devonshire cow; the first is the prevailing stock; the comparative merits of these species are strongly contested. The supporters of the long-horned breed contend, that
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they yield more milk, and produce a more enlarged carcass when thrown off to be fatted, than the Devonshire cow; while the favourers of the latter kind, assert that they are equally good milkers with the long-horned, and yet are so much smaller, and eat so much less food, that the same land will support three of this kind as is necessary to keep two of the other, besides the important advantages that arise from their attaining perfection full two years earlier. If these circumstances are true, the question is decided; the Devonshire cow is certainly the species that should be most cultivated. But why is there any doubt on this subject? When truth can so easily be found, what a deplorable prejudice is that which prevents our seeking it.

It has been intimated in the description of the south-east district, that two kinds of sheep are necessary for the distinct purposes of folding and fattening; and as both systems are here pursued, though the latter is most prevalent, it is evident that the particular qualities of the animal should be attended to. This attention, however, is not general. The Leicestershire breed seems peculiarly adapted for getting fat at an early age, and has been introduced with success into some parts of this district; yet the majority of farmers injudiciously continue the use of the old kind;

kind ; as if the sheep best calculated for rambling over the Downs, and gleaning their sustenance from the bleak hills, was also the most proper for feeding in the prolific meadow.

Swine are regarded as a necessary appendage to every dairy farm ; great numbers are fed with the whey and offal, and many fatted, their chief food being whey mixed with barley-meal.

The north-west verge of the county, that part already distinguished for its similarity to the Cotswold hills, may be said to be the only *entire* tract of land in the district which is kept in an arable state ; some parts of the vale are, however, employed in the growth of corn ; and on the vein of gravel, which runs in a broken line from Melksham to Cricklade, and in another direction extends from Tytherton through Christian Malford, and Dantsey, to Somerford, and also on some of the sand soils, the land is of that rich quality that it bears corn every year, and that of almost every kind.

The depending manure of this district is the sheep-fold, with the addition of the produce of the stalls and sheds where the cattle are wintered. In the dry upland pastures, lime mixed with earth is frequently used ; and in the neighbourhood of towns, soap-ashes are often strewed with

with success on rushy wet-lands, that have been lately drained. Soot and coal ashes are also employed as temporary manures for weak crops of wheat and young clover. The system of watering meadows is not generally practised, though a few farmers have adopted, and experienced its advantages.

GENERAL REMARKS. The price of labour varies considerably in different parts of the county, being affected by the proximity, or distance of the manufacturing towns.

In the south-east district, where the inhabitants are but little under the influence of manufacturing prices, the wages of the labourers in husbandry are nearly uniform; and, excepting the time of harvest, usually the same throughout the year. In that season an advance is given, either in money, or by additional meat or drink. The advance is variable, depending as well on the length of the harvest, as the plenty of labourers.

In the north-west part of Wiltshire, the wages are higher. The winter price being seven shillings per week for constant labourers, and eight shillings for occasional ones, with generally the addition of small beer. The hay-making and harvest prices, are from seven shillings and sixpence

sixpence to nine shillings per week. Mowing grass, two shillings an acre, and sometimes more; the corn in proportion; small beer is also given, and in urgent seasons, victuals and ale.

“The greater part of this county was formerly, and at no very remote period, in the hands of great proprietors*. Almost every manor had its resident lord, who held part of the lands in demesne, and granted out the rest by copy or lease, to under-tenants, usually for three lives, renewable. A state of commonage, and particularly of open common fields, was peculiarly favourable to this tenure. Inclosures naturally tend to extinction.

“The north-west part of Wiltshire being much better adapted to inclosures, and to subdivision of property, than the south, was inclosed first, while the south-east, or Down district, has undergone few inclosures, and still fewer subdivisions; and during the same period that a great deal of the property of the former district has been divided and subdivided, and gone into the hands of the many, *property in the latter district has been bought up by the great landholders, and is now in fewer hands than it was in the last century.*”

* Davis's General View.

How far the consolidation of farms here alluded to, may contribute to general happiness, is a question that has long divided the writers on political economy. It has been contended, that improvement in agriculture cannot become universal, unless the farms are of sufficient size to cover the risk of making experiments. That the excessive subdivision of farms, considered independently of local and accidental circumstances, is inimical to *productive* industry, the persons engaged not having business adequate to the employ of their *whole* time. That the same implements, the same houses, and the same beasts, and almost the same number of labourers, are employed in the operations of a small farm, as would suffice for the cultivation of one considerably larger; and consequently, a less comparative produce is obtained at a *greater* comparative expence.

The opponents to the enlargement of farms admit the general validity of these arguments, but deny the propriety of their application, as well as their efficiency to decide the question, when it is considered on the broad basis of national utility. They contend, that agricultural improvement is not *absolutely* connected with the maintenance of public happiness, since the price of
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of provisions does not correspond with the improvements that have already taken place; it being an uncontradicted fact that agricultural produce is now considerably dearer than it was in former times; they assert, that man was not created for *continued* labour; that the necessity for it was only produced from the corruptions generated by unwise establishments; and therefore, that his exertions should be regulated by a standard more conformable to nature, than to the support of evils which never should have been admitted into the community. Finally, that the consolidation of farms tends as well to the enhancement of the price of the necessaries of life, as it does to the destruction of the middling class of society, that invaluable link between the poor and the opulent. These effects arise from the operation of two causes. Milk, eggs, butter, vegetables, &c. articles of the first necessity with the indigent, are beneath the attention of the great farmer; he has enough for his own purposes, and his affluence prevents him feeling the want of the small sums which their cultivation and sale would produce; the same affluence also enables him to withhold his commodities from market till extreme prices are offered, and his country groans beneath the weight of his cupidity and avarice.

“ The reflection * on this manifold inequality, this partial distribution, not of rank or fortune, but of *land* to be *tilled*, appals me with fear for the consequences, and saddens me at the prospect. Various are the instances within my own knowledge of twelve farms which once supported so many families in credit having been thrown into three or four, upon an inclosure, and in many cases without one. I do not, however, from hence blame inclosures ; the largeness of farms is certainly not necessarily connected with this mode of improvement, which might be made productive of numerous benefits to all ; but arises from a *narrow policy* in the *land owners* ; an impolitic saving of expences in buildings and repairs, with somewhat less trouble to the steward in collecting the rents ; while, for such *paltry objects*, the risque is run of ultimately endangering the *safety* of all *property*, and the very stability of the state itself.” The Doctor proceeds in this mode of reasoning to display the impolicy and consequences of the present system of consolidating farms, which, if not speedily checked, will inevitably produce effects, the anticipation of which makes the soul shudder. “ I foresee ruin approaching, with rapid strides, to over-

* Dr. Mavor's Letter to Mr. Pratt. Gleanings in England, vol. ii. p. 286.

whelm both the innocent and the guilty, the oppressor and the aggrieved. I foresee democratic violence, exasperated by sufferings, tearing asunder the legitimate barriers of right; and the inundation, thus let in, sweeping, like a torrent, *justice, mercy, and honour, from our land.*"

The numerous considerations involved in this discussion, are of too great importance to be treated cursorily; yet, from the small space which propriety would suffer me to allot to the subject, it seems most prudent that I should wave it altogether. My inclination, however, leads strongly to the insertion of a few elementary remarks, which may possibly tend to the correction of some erroneous conceptions on this subject, and in consequence, eventually be of service to the interests of my country. Be this explanation my apology.

In determining the extent of farms, it is necessary to regard the convenience and possibility of cultivation; for the proper size must ever depend on soil, situation, and modes of husbandry. Both the natural and artificial fertility of the lands of Britain are different in different parts of the isle; and equalization of size must, therefore, be injurious, since the same portion of ground that in one district would be sufficient to occupy and sustain a

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farmer's family, and, at the same time, feed, with its overplus, a fair proportion of the people engaged in other business elsewhere, would in another be inadequate to those purposes. The extent of British farms must, therefore, be variable.

In the divisions of every county, however, there is a general level, to which farms of a certain size seem peculiarly adapted; if they are much above or below this, their management will be attended with disadvantages either to the occupiers or to the public. Hence, though we cannot determine as to the uniform number of acres to which the extent of farms should be limited, we may, without descending to minute particulars, name a rental beyond which they ought no where to be enlarged. In fixing this at about 300*l.* per annum, we seem to be as near the truth, as the complex circumstances of the question permit us to determine.

The income arising from a rental of superior magnitude, is injurious to the public interests, by enabling the farmer to influence the market more than a fair remuneration of his labours can justify; yet it by no means follows that all farms should be of this size. “That * class of the community who are employed in raising necessaries for the support of the rest, have a

* Commercial Magazine, vol. iii.

charge highly respectable and important. They should be regarded as the first class of our labourers, and their emoluments ought to be proportionate to the importance of their functions. The subsistence which a farmer may derive from his lands, should afford him a comfortable house, abundance of nourishing fare, decent raiment, the means of educating his children for any condition in life, not excessively above his own, the power of laying up a capital for his relief in seasons of scarcity, for his support in sickness and old age, for the settling of his children when they shall grow up, in farms of their own, or in other suitable modes of life. In order to this, the farm ought not to be of the smallest possible extent, but should be sufficiently large to employ a capital in stock, implements, and labour, the profits of which may afford that income for expenditure and accumulation which is here represented to be necessary." For the attainment of these objects, the produce of a rental not less than eighty pounds a year seems requisite. Between the above sums, the rental of farms may be allowed to fluctuate; but it should neither exceed the one, nor be inferior to the other.

Much of the land in Wiltshire is in a state of commonage; the rents, in consequence, are

very different. The tenantry farms (those subjected to rights of common) are from 18l. to 40l. per annum. The farms in severalty (provincially ; their complete possession by one occupier) from 100l. to 300l. generally ; but, in some instances, so high as from 400l. to 1000l. per annum. Such an enormous appropriation cannot be beneficial to the common-wealth. The term for which leases are granted, varies from seven to fourteen, and twenty-one years ; the common term is fourteen.

The kinds of timber natural to Wiltshire may be almost reduced to three ; the oak, the ash, and the elm. Beech grows spontaneously only on the very edge of the county, bordering on Hampshire. Formerly, wood was the principal fuel of farm-houses and villages, but the general introduction of pit-coal has materially lessened the consumption, and with it the necessary attention to the preservation of the coppices, particularly on the Downs, and near the centre of the county, where under-wood is most wanted ; on the outskirts, however, some very large, valuable, and thriving woods, are still remaining.

Few counties in the kingdom are so abundantly provided with good turnpike roads as Wilts ; there being no less than ten principal roads

roads of that description which pass through it, besides a number of smaller intersecting ones. Canals are not much attended to, the landholders in general being averse to their introduction, from a fear lest they should deprive the meadows of water; the numerous good roads render them, in some degree, less necessary, while the difficulty of carrying them through the hills, and making their bottoms water-tight, increases the expence to a much greater sum than they cost in other parts of the kingdom.

I cannot conclude the present subject without offering a few admonitions to the Farmer, who, I trust, will derive that benefit from them which I humbly conceive they are calculated to produce. I have travelled through every part of the county, and have attentively examined the practices and conduct of many persons employed in the important art of agriculture; and though I will not deny the meed of praise to some, yet I cannot forbear reprehending many who obstinately persist in *old and bad practices*, who are slovenly and negligent in the management of their lands, or who are too proud, or too lazy, to superintend the concerns of their farms. It is a subject of high import, and a *duty* incumbent

bent on every land-renter, “to have * a special regard to the *cleanness* and *neatness*, and consequently the greatest productiveness of his husbandry; a duty which he *owes* to the community, and in the neglect of which he is a highly culpable member of society; for though his bargain may be so easy, and his soil so good, that even under slovenly management he may be able to pay his rent, and get money, the community is suffering a constant loss by his mismanagement; and still farther, by his bad example, so far forth as that example has an influence on other young inexperienced farmers.” An example of this kind is instanced, which I am sorry to assert is not confined to the individual alluded to. A farmer having been reprehended for suffering *couch-grass* to thrive on his arable land, endeavoured to shroud his ignorance, or idleness, under the subterfuge, that such grass was of utility for feeding his cows; “and as for the goodness of MY farming, why I have laid *me* by five hundred pounds a year, for twenty years past; and so, let *thick mon* as can do better, try!!!” It is not only painful to relate these instances of fool-hardened selfishness, but it is

* Introduction to the ninth volume of the Bath Society's Papers, by Mr. Matthews.

distressing

distressing to reflect on the consequences of such examples.

In pointing out an evil, we should also recommend a remedy, this I will endeavour to do, though I fear it will be but little heeded by the old practitioner, yet I hope it will have some influence with the Novice. I wish that farmers would blend a little theory with practice; that they would investigate the process of vegetation, and nature of soils; let them ascertain the certain effects of manures*, and eradicate that baneful prejudice which enjoins an obstinate attachment to *one* system, a prejudice which is commonly imbibed by ignorance, and nurtured by dogmatism: all these desirable objects might be effected by an attentive perusal of the invaluable writings of Dr. Anderson, Mr. Marshall, Mr. Kirwan, Mr. Young, &c. by which means they would acquire more knowledge in *one month*, than they could obtain by a year's *plodding practice*.

I shall now take my leave of this subject, with an anxious hope that the suggestions of an ob-

* Vide an *interesting* work on this subject by Richard Kirwan, Esq. entitled, "The MANURES most advantageously applicable to *the various sorts of soils*, and the causes of their beneficial effect in each particular instance."—Octavo pamphlet.

scure individual may not be totally disregarded ; they were dictated by sincerity, and emanated from conviction.

“ Though round the world the roar of discord reign,

“ And barbarous folly spread her proud domain ;

“ Still must my theme be urg'd,—nor ardour cease

“ For *rural works*, of DEAR DOMESTIC PEACE.”

MATTHEWS.



SECT.

SECT. XIX.

SALISBURY PLAIN CONTINUED.

BARROWS, &c.

THE extensive plains of Salisbury cannot be passed over in a *moment*, either in walking or description; and though I have effected the first in several different directions, the latter is at present unaccomplished. These evagations, it is true, have been frequently attended with considerable bodily fatigue; yet the variety of subjects for contemplation and reflection that are strewn over every quarter of this vast space, made ample amends for the lassitude that sometimes hung upon my weary steps, by recalling to my mind the recollection of former events, and the scenery of long-forgotten ages.

In these excursive wanderings of the imagination, the wizard Fancy presented her magic mirror to my view. I beheld the Downs, peopled with countless multitudes of the rude aborigines of the land, tumultuously assembled to celebrate

brate the mystic solemnities of the Druidical and Bardic institutions. On a sudden, in the midst of their unlettered rights, the sound of war was heard. The picture changed. The instruments of peace had given place to the spear and the javelin ; and the people ranged in ferocious bands under their respective chieftains, departed to the sea-coast ; for the shores of Britain were invaded by an enemy. The prospect again changed ; and in successive scenes I beheld the dreadful shock of battle, the fierce encounter, the arts of the combatants to ensure victory, the repulse of the invading foe, and the exultation of the conquerors. I looked again ; the Downs were once more covered with congregated multitudes, but anguish and despair were indented on every countenance ; a gallant hero had been slain : his body was lying prostrate on a rude bier, and his friends, with sorrowful acclamations, were hastening to convey it to the last sad mansion of mortality : a mound of earth was prepared for its reception, and the remains of the brave warrior were deposited in the artless sepulchre. The lamentations of the spectators increased, the tear trickled down every cheek, the mirror grew dim, my hand was unconsciously uplifted, the wet drop fell upon it, and, starting—I saw only the memorials of the mighty
dead

dead thickly scattered over the silent and extensive waste that spread before me.

The paths on Salisbury Plain are proverbially mazy, but its antiquities are much more complex. By the former, the steps of many have been bewildered; by the last, the senses of more have been confused. Both writer and reader have been perplexed by the ambiguity which enshrouds the history of the TUMULI, or BARROWS, the numerous FORTIFICATIONS, and the mystic circles of the celebrated STONEHENGE. Whether my own lucubrations will be attended with better success, time only, by unfolding the conclusions of the judicious, can determine.

The numerous Barrows which meet the eye on almost every eminence of these Downs, have been distributed by Dr. Stukeley into no less than eight different classes, according to their variety of form, or relative situation. Some he denominated royal sepulchres; others, the barrows of kings; a third kind were said to be the burial places of the Arch-druids; and a fourth, of Druids of the common order; these, of course, are concluded to be of British origin. But the Doctor, not contented with assigning different shaped tumuli to different orders of the community, without evidence sufficient to substantiate his opinions, boldly advances into the regions

regions of fiction, and confounds the customs of states and of nations, by ascribing the construction of monuments of the same classification, to the Britons, the Romans, and the Danes.

These chimerical speculations of Dr. Stukeley have been completely confuted by the learned and luminous writings of Mr. Edward King*, who, after a very interesting examination of this subject, draws the following conclusions:

“ Nothing can be more vague and unsatisfactory than the common account usually given of their being Danish works; which account has taken its rise merely from the hasty opinions of those who first began to investigate these matters, as deserving attention in these later ages; we may therefore, from such strong resemblance between primæval and nearly patriarchal customs in the East, and the aboriginal works in Ireland and Britain in the West, much more rationally infer that these sepulchral barrows are almost, *without exception*, the works of the first race of settlers in these countries, who retained primæval customs and usages, till they were disturbed and driven out of them (as well as out of their possessions) by the Romans and other invaders; and were converted to a dif-

* Munimenta Antiqua.

ferent mode of life and manners, by the embracing of Christianity.”

The most considerable of these barrows is *Silbury Hill*, which is situated close by the great Bath road, one mile south of Avebury, and five miles west of Marlborough. This monstrous tumuli is unquestionably the largest of the kind in England. It measures one hundred and seventy feet perpendicular, one hundred and five feet diameter at the top, and five hundred at the bottom. Its shape is that of a truncated cone, diminishing gradually from its base to the summit. It is evidently formed by art, as the surrounding excavations shew from whence the earth was obtained. That it was constructed before the Romans came into this county, is proved by the road of that people, which here takes a sweep nearly half round it, in its course from Bath to Marlborough, &c. In the year 1723, a human skeleton, and a curious Bit of a bridle*, were found by some people who were digging to plant trees on the top. Several attempts have been made to explore the centre and bottom of this artificial mountain, but I cannot learn that any satisfactory discoveries have been made; nor

* Vide Gough's Edition of Camden, where an engraving is given of this ancient relic.

does it appear that any person has ever persevered to any considerable depth. This is probably reserved for some future antiquary ; and I have not the least doubt, were a passage to be opened on a level with the native soil, from east to west, and a shaft sunk immediately in the centre, but that some curious objects would be discovered. Analogy seems to warrant the supposition.

There is no part of England, and perhaps, no part of the world, where barrows are so numerous as on Salisbury Plain. The different shapes have already been alluded to. It would be almost endless to particularize the whole ; nor do I apprehend such a task would be agreeable to the reader. I know it would be tedious to myself, and shall, therefore, close this account with a few particulars concerning some that have recently been explored.

In the summer of 1800, Mr. Cunnington, the gentleman already mentioned, opened several barrows in the neighbourhood of Heytsbury, and afterwards favoured me with the following particulars :

“ The first that we investigated is called Longbarrow. This is forty yards in length, and situated about a quarter of a mile north from the house of Sir W. A’Court. A section was made from the eastern-side to the centre ; and on a level

level with the adjoining ground we found a stratum of very black mould, an inch thick, which gradually increased in thickness as we advanced towards the middle, where it measured twelve or more inches in depth. Hence we worked longitudinally for several feet to the right and left, and still continued to find the black earth at the bottom ; yet, after all our researches, found only three or four small pieces of bone, some small bits of pottery, and a piece of a stag's horn, five inches and a half in length."

"The second was a small circular barrow near Knook Castle. We began by cutting a trench completely through it, and as near to the middle as possible. Working about a foot to the right of what I conceived to be the centre, we found an urn, sixteen inches deep, fourteen inches wide at the bottom, and five and a half at top, placed with the mouth downwards. It appears to be composed of half burnt clay, and was placed upon the native marle soil. On removing it, we found the contents to be human and animal bones intermingled, mixed with black and red earth. The bones had been burnt, and crumbled to dust on being handled. Amongst them was the point of a brass sword, or dagger. Mr. Wyndham, who attended these examinations,

minations, supposed that the person interred might have been a British chief, and this (the cause of his death) buried with him. After re-interring the bones, we brought away as much of the urn as we possibly could, which, with the point of the sword, I have by me. The piece of sword is of whitish brass, covered with the verde rust, and about one inch and a half long."

"Within these few days, (Nov. 20th, 1800,) I have superintended the opening of one of the largest long-barrows in the county. It is situated near Boreham, in Warminster parish, a quarter of a mile south of Battlesbury camp; it is one hundred and eighty-nine feet long at the base, fifty-four feet wide, and fifteen feet high. We began in the middle, by making a section six feet wide from the extreme edge to the centre. We then worked to the right and left in the form of a cross. The barrow is composed of the white marle earth and stone, mixed with vegetable mould. The adjacent soil is two feet nine inches higher than the floor of the barrow. In our progress, we have found pieces of stags' horns, animal and human bones, scattered among the earth. On the floor, or bottom of the barrow, we find bones in abundance; some half burnt, almost calcined, and black with the
the

the action of the fire, charred wood, ashes, &c. The FORTIFICATIONS, or CAMPS, though not in such profusion as the barrows, are nevertheless very numerous, and of various kinds and dimensions. Those of Old Sarum, Battlesbury, Scratchbury, &c. I have already described. I shall, at present, merely mention the names and situation of the principal among the remainder; some of which I propose to give a further account of, when describing the places near which they are stationed.

Ambresbury, an extensive entrenchment, called Vespasian's camp.

Bratton Castle, near Eddington.

Barbury Castle, near Marlborough.

Badbury Camp, near Longford.

Chiselbury Ring, or Camp, near Compton Chamberlain.

Casterley Entrenchment, near Uphaven.

Chidbury-Hill Castle, near Everley.

Clearbury Ring, or Camp, near Odstock.

Chesbury Castle, near Great Bedwin.

Frisbury Camp.—Haydon Castle, or Hill, near Chute.

Loddington Castle, near Wanborough.

Martinsall Castle, or Hill, near Marlborough.

Old Castle, near Mere.

Ogburn Ring, or Camp, near Durnford.

Oldbury Hill, or Castle, near Bowood.

Old Camp, on Boreham Down.

Roundway Hill, or Castle, near Devizes.

Sherston, west of Malmsbury.

Whitestreet Hill, near Stourhead.

Before I conclude my observations on these Downs, I must not omit to mention some particulars of one of the *natives* of the district; the GREAT* BUSTARD, or *otis tarda*, of *Linneus*. This very singular animal is one of the largest of our land birds; it has been known to weigh thirty pounds, and to measure four feet in length. It was formerly very numerous on these plains, but the murdering tube of the sportsmen, and pilfering hand of the shepherd, have nearly exterminated the whole race. An insignificant partridge is protected by the laws of the land, whilst this noble bird, this ornament to the island, may be sacrificed by any of those ignorant clowns, whose greatest pride consists in boasting of having destroyed a poor bird; or, what is no less common, nor less reprehensible, of *intoxication*. I cannot repress my indignation at such conduct; it degrades a rational being, and renders him of far less value to society, than the brute that

* There are two sorts, the great, and little bustard, both of which are minutely described in Bewick's elegant History of Birds.

perishes

perishes for his amusement. Mr. Gilpin, speaking of this bird, says, "his own vigilance is a better security to him than an act of parliament; as he is so noble a prize, the flesh so delicate, and the quantity of it so large, he is of course frequently the object of the fowler's stratagem." Mr. G. proceeds to recount those stratagems: which is, by concealing himself in a waggon, with a long barrell'd gun, or sending off a brace of greyhounds, which soon "come up with the bustard, though he runs well; and if they can contrive to reach him, just as he is on the point of taking wing, (an operation which he performs with less expedition than is requisite in such critical circumstances) they may *perhaps* seize him." It is a commonly received opinion, yet I can assert it is a false one, that the bustard cannot spring immediately from the ground, without running a considerable way. In the summer of 1800, I saw two; they were feeding on a track of pasture near Tilshead. I felt much gratified in beholding and examining these rare and majestic birds; and having amused myself by looking at them for some time through a telescope, I approached within eighty yards, when they *sprang immediately from the ground*.

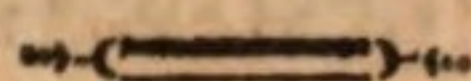
"There is a very essential difference between the male and female; the former is furnished with

a sack, or pouch, situated in the fore part of the neck, and capable of containing about two quarts; the entrance to it is immediately under the tongue." This singular reservoir is supposed to be filled with water for its own use on the extensive Downs, and as a weapon of defence when attacked by birds of prey, when it throws out the water with such violence, as frequently to repel the enemy. Its food is various, as herbs, grain, worms, and in winter bark of trees; like the ostrich it swallows small stones, bits of metal, &c. The female makes no nest, but making a hole in the ground, deposits two eggs about the size of those of a goose, of a pale olive brown, with dark spots. She is very shy, for if any body touches one of her eggs, while she is from her nest in quest of food, she immediately abandons her charge.



SECT. XX.

STONEHENGE.



“Sagacious conjecture, founded on *probable evidence*, resulting from the combination of the few facts of which we have *certain knowledge*, can alone be expected where an interval of *many centuries* obstructs our enquiries.”

MONTHLY REVIEW.



THE astonishing assemblage of stones which compose the massive ruin thus denominated, is situated on the extensive plains I have just described, about two miles west of the village of Ambresbury, and seven miles north from the city of Salisbury.

Interesting, not only from being one of the earliest essays of that art, which afterwards arrived to the utmost perfection in the highly wrought cathedral of New Sarum, but also from its immediate connection with the attainments

and manners of the first inhabitants of Britain, it would prove a most important desideratum to ascertain the *real purpose* and *time* of its erection. Upon these two interesting points we have been kept in the dark for the space of nearly thirteen hundred years.

Imagination, ever restless, and ever deciding on crude or imperfect information, has multiplied the uses and destinations for which these mystic circles were primarily intended. To examine *all* of which, and the various conjectures, hypotheses, and speculations, that have been written on this wonder, would involve me in an enquiry too abstruse for my present purpose; a task too severe to encounter. It is a field where the mazes of wild opinion are more complex and intricate than the ruin; where sagacity and ingenuity have full scope to indulge their playful curvetings; where we may batter down systems with the ironic weapons of ridicule, and erect others only to meet the same fate; in short, there has ever been so much ambiguity and conjecture in the lucubrations of those persons who have written on this marvellous structure, that I was almost deterred from making any attempt to explain what has so long remained enveloped in uncertainty; nor should I have had courage to oppose a very prevalent opinion, but from the acquisition

acquisition of some very important documents * which my predecessors had not the good fortune to possess. This has given me confidence to commence the arduous undertaking of encountering the prejudice and confirmed opinions of many; yet I hope the man of candour and liberality will not suffer prepossession to counteract the intrinsic evidence of the following particulars. As the reader may be amused with the various opinions and conjectures already given, I will first present him with a cursory review of those which have obtained some degree of credit, either from their own ingenuity or the celebrity of their authors.

INIGO JONES adopted an hypothesis of its being a temple of the Tuscan order, built by the Romans for the worship of *Cælum*, or *Terminus*.

This idea is opposed by Dr. CHARLTON, who would fain assign this structure to the Danes; and *endeavours* to prove that they erected it as a pastime or frolic, during their short-lived triumph over the great Alfred, whilst he was concealed in a cottage, meditating plans to retrieve his

* These I obtained from Mr. William Owen, whose intimate knowledge of *British Antiquities* and *History*, are not only apparent in his writings, but have obtained the suffrage of many profound critics.

fortune. Some writers also of the present day espouse this silly and *very improbable* notion.

It is asserted by AUBREY, to have been a temple for the Druid worship; and that it was erected at a period long before the arrival of the Romans in Britain.

Dr. STUKELEY followed in the same track, and became a warm advocate for assigning to the Druids the honour of raising Stonehenge. In order to establish this opinion, he allows his mind to range freely through the regions of fancy, and confounds Druidism with the ceremonies of the Pagan sacrifices among the Greeks and Romans.

With a more sober mind, Mr. WOOD, the architect, espouses the same hypothesis.

The next author who holds this opinion, is Dr. Smith, who endeavours to prove that the structure was primarily intended for astronomical observations, as well as religious rites.

Benjamin Martin, in a publication under the title of the Natural History of Wiltshire, affects greatly to deride *all* who have given their opinions on Stonehenge; and is particularly severe upon them for supposing the work to be of *natural stones*, when they appear clearly to him to consist of an artificial composition.

The

The next writer that I shall have occasion to notice, is Mr. Warltire, who, in the year 1792, delivered a lecture on Stonehenge; a few extracts from which will shew the futility of chimerical hypothesis, when discoursing on such subjects.

“The name of Stonehenge is Saxon, and means hanging stones. The large stones were brought from the Grey Weathers, on Marlborough Downs, round a *circuit of about thirty miles*. Some of these stones are of fine granite, some of *porphyry*, but the largest are of granulated quartz. One of these stones is ninety tons weight, another one hundred tons. The cross stones of the Trilithons, are of *jaspar*, *foreign granite* and some of *bad porphyry*. The altar is of porphyry, from the *Black Mountain*, in South Wales; some of the granite has been brought from the *Pyrennian Mountains*, or *Finland*, for there is *none* of the kind in this country. This structure was so contrived that one person speaking behind the interior altar, could be heard distinctly by every person within the outer circle, but a person without that circle could not hear any thing distinctly. It will hold three thousand people or thereabouts. It is a vast Theodolite for observing the motions of the heavenly bodies. It had a meridian line, ten miles in length, at the time of its formation, from which
the

the present meridian line varies forty-seven degrees. The barrows are so placed as to represent the stars: the Pleiades, and other heavenly bodies. Some of them are in a ring, some of which were to represent ancient eclipses in their various gradations, and the small tumuli in these rings *always represented the moon*. Stonehenge has been a place of worship, and for national assemblies, as well as for astronomical observations.

“There are two clayed pits, and two stones near the ditch, to represent the greatest declination of the sun. There is one of the trilithons, that answers to the present meridian; and after that, others come in, during an immense length of time. By measuring the shadow of the trilithon on the parabolic arch, they were enabled to tell how the year passed, and when it began and ended. There is a stone in the avenue so placed, that the shadow should not appear when the moon was in its greatest altitude; and at other times shewed what the deficiency was, agreeably to a very remote period. The times of assembly were the equinoxes and solstices. It was erected *before the use of iron* was known in this country; the artificers’ tools were of flint, some of which were found lately near an adjoining barrow, OF MOVEABLE MOUNT, in which ARE THE CHIP-PINGS OF THE STONES. The stones were, as it
is

is supposed, carried by men, and supported on rafts. They were raised by a moveable mount, formed into an inclined plane ; that barrow near which the tools were found appears to have been the instrument made use of."

These extracts will be fully sufficient to convince the reader of the absurdity and imposition of such wild conjectures ; which, although calculated "to elevate and surprise" the ignorant, must provoke a smile with the man of erudition.

None of the above-mentioned writers have condescended to search for historical documents respecting the subject of enquiry ; some, indeed, have quoted the account of it, as given in the British Chronicle, by Geoffrey of Monmouth ; wherein the creation of the fabric is ascribed to Ambrosius, as a monument to the memory of the chieftains *, who on that spot fell victims to the treachery of the inhuman Saxons ; but in so doing, they affect to treat the whole as fabulous. They ought to have considered, that the singularity of the structure must have a strong tendency to create marvellous ideas ; especially in the brains of those simple and credulous historians, who lived in an age of ignorance and superstition.

* This circumstance is said to have taken place in the month of May, 475.

For my part, whatever shall be attempted in these pages, towards an illustration of this disputed subject, shall be founded upon such historical documents, as can be collected for that purpose. This being my design, it would be highly injudicious to slight the British Chronicles, which are almost the sole repositories of the events transacted in the early period of our history, especially should other authorities be in unison with what they relate.

The purport of what is said in the history of Walter of Oxford, in Welsh, is as follows*.

“After Emrys (i. e. Ambrosius,) had tranquillized every place, he made a journey to Salisbury, to behold the graves of those whom Hengistyr had caused to be slain of the British chieftains. At that time there were three hundred monks, who formed a community in the monastery of Ambri Mount; for so it was called, because it was founded by a person who was named Ambri. And Emrys was grieved to see that spot devoid of every mark of honour; so he summoned to him all the stone-masons and carpenters in the isle of Britain, to erect a trophy, which should be an eternal memorial round that sepulture.

* This is one out of three chronicles, printed in the Welsh Archaiology, vol. ii. page 77, from manuscripts written about the twelfth century.

“Then

“ Then after they had assembled together, their ingenuity failed them. Thereupon Tramor, archbishop of Caer-Llion, drew near to them, and thus spoke to Emrys:—‘ My Lord, cause thou to come before thee Merdin (Merlin) the bard of Gortheyrn; for he is able to invent a wonderful structure, through his skill, to be of eternal duration.’ So Merdin was brought to Emrys; and the King was joyful to see him; and Emrys desired him to foretel the events which were to come in future on this island. But Merdin replied: ‘ It is not right to declare those things, except when there is a necessity; and were I, on the contrary, to speak of them, the spirit that instructs me would depart when I should stand in need of it.’ Upon that, the King would not press him farther; but enquired of him in what manner he could invent a fair and lasting work, over that spot.

“ Thereupon Merdin advised a journey to Ireland, to the place where stood the *côr y cawri*, or the circle of the giants, on the mountain of Cilara. For thereon are stones of extraordinary quality, of which nobody has any knowledge; and they are not to be obtained by might, nor by strength, but by art: and, were they at this place in the state they are there, they would stand to eternity. So Emrys then said laughingly,

ingly, by what means can they be brought from thence? Merdin replied, move not thyself to laughter, because I speak but seriousness and truth; for those stones are mystical, and are capable of producing a variety of cures; they were originally brought thither by giants, from the extremities of Spain; and they placed them in their present position. The reason of their bringing them was, that when any of them should be attacked by disease, they were wont to make a fomentation in the midst of the stones, first laving the stones; that water they poured into the fomentation; and through that they obtained perfect health from the ills that might affect them; for they put herbs in the fomentation, and those healed the wounds.

“When the Britons heard of the virtues of those stones, immediately they set off to bring them; Uthyr Pendragon, being commissioned to be their leader, taking fifteen thousand armed men with him; Merdin also was sent, as being the most scientific of his cotemporaries.

“At that time Gillamori was a king in Ireland; who, on hearing of the affair, came with a great army against them; and he demanded of them the purport of their errand. When the King understood their business, he laughed, saying, ‘It is no wonder to me that a feeble
4 race

race of men has been able to ravage the isle of Britain, if its natives are so silly as to provoke the people of Ireland to fight with them about stones.' Then they fought fiercely ; and numbers were slain on both sides, until at length Gillamori gave way, and his men fled.

" Then Merdin said, ' Exert now the utmost skill you are acquainted with, to carry the stones away : ' but it ~~availed~~ ^{availed} them not. Merdin then laughed ; and without any labour, but by the effect of science, he readily brought the stones to the ships. So they thus brought them to Ambri Mount.

" Then Emrys summoned to him all the chiefs and graduated scholars of the kingdom, in order through their advice, to adorn that place with a magnificent ornament. Thereupon he put the crown of the kingdom on his head ; celebrated the festival of Whitsuntide for three days successively ; rendered to all in the island their respective rights ; and supplied his men, in a becoming manner, with gold, silver, horses, and arms. So when every thing was prepared, Emrys desired Merdin to elevate the stones, as they were in Cilara ; and this he accomplished. Then every body confessed that ingenuity surpassed strength."

The

The relation in the Welsh copy, by Geoffrey of Monmouth, is nearly to the same effect; except that in some parts it is more diffuse. So also is an old Welsh chronicle, by an unknown writer; only that in the latter there is no mention of the stones being originally brought to Ireland from any distant country.

The account of the slaughter of the British chiefs, through the treachery of Hengist, which precedes the above quotation, is circumstantially copied from Nennius; the event is likewise recorded in the historical Triades of the Britons, in words of the following import:

“ One the three treacherous assemblies of the isle of Britain, was the meeting of the principal men of the Cymry, (the Welsh) and the deputies of the Saxons, on the mountain of Caer Caradoc, where the plot of the long-knives, through the treachery of Gortheyrn, was carried into effect; for by his advice, and the abetment of the Saxons, nearly all the chieftains of the Cymry were slain.”

That the Caer Caradoc, or camp of Caractacus, mentioned in the above, was near the site of the present Ambresbury, is confirmed by other Triades. One of them stiles the choir of Emrys, in Caer Caradoc, one of the three incessant choirs of the isle of Britain; where it is stated
there

there were two thousand four hundred monks, one hundred for every hour, of the four and twenty in rotation, performing the service of God without intermission.

There is a triad, called the three mighty deeds of the island of Britain, one of which is the “erecting of the work of Emrys.” A memorial likewise of the erection of this structure, is still preserved in some of the Welsh proverbs; for, when any great difficulty is mentioned, they call it ‘*Mal gwaith Emrys,*’ like the work of Emrys, and ‘*Mal codi gwaith Emrys,*’ like the raising of the work of Emrys.

From these records it clearly appears, that Stonehenge was the work of the Romanized Britons, about the latter end of the fifth century. Let us now advert to the foregoing evidence. What is mentioned first in order is the extract from the British histories, which it has been the *fashion* to decry as fabulous altogether. I readily admit that those writings contain many *absurd fictions*; and where are the ancient chronicles that are free from similar blemishes? These, at the time they were written, were believed to be *true history*, as well by the chroniclers themselves, as by the people at large. But suppose the extract under consideration be minutely examined, what great impossibility does there

appear in it? Their bringing of the stones from Ireland is the only part of it which can be strictly denominated of such a description. But compare this with the real fact presented to us in the structure. There we behold stones of various kinds; the largest class, however, consist of 'pure, fine-grained, compact, sand-stone,' which are to be found in abundance on Marlborough Downs, and also, as I am informed, all over Salisbury Plain, by boring to a certain depth: there are three or four other sorts, which certainly have been collected from distant places, as none of a similar texture are to be found near the spot; and, agreeably to the account in the foregoing extract, some of them were, with as much probability, brought from Ireland, as from any other country.

The memorials of Stonehenge, which are contained in the triades, and in the traditionary sayings of Wales, are evidences which I conceive to be conclusive; and, as they are simple, they require no further illustration.

With respect to those writers who have disdained searching for historical memorials, and have attributed the origin of Stonehenge to the Druids, merely by consulting their own imaginations, I must observe, that in addition to the above historical testimony, there are some proofs of

of a negative kind *against assigning* the erection of this fabric to a period *purely Druidical*.

In the first place, the circles wherein the Britons held their meetings, agreeably to the Bardic or Druidical system, were *particularly required* to be composed of stones in their *natural state*; and ALL the remains of them will shew that this principle was never transgressed, as may be particularly seen in those *indisputably ancient*, of AVEBURY, STANTON DREW, BOSCAWEN, and ROLL RICH. But the construction of Stonehenge militates against such a principle, as the stones bear the marks of being considerably worked by art, and must therefore have been the production of a subsequent period, when the force of events had caused a relaxation in the observance of the Bardic institutions. This conclusion derives additional strength from a circumstance not generally known. Several pieces of pottery, evidently of Roman manufacture, or made from their models, were discovered (after the fall of the large stones in the year 1797) *in the soil* which served for their foundation.

I shall now dismiss the subject, with a few additional remarks on the most material topics which have been urged towards throwing light upon the *time* when it was probably erected.

The idea of making it a Roman temple, is coming nearer to the true *era* of its construction than some people have imagined, or will allow, for it discovers traits of the character belonging to the architecture of that people, though not intended as a place of their worship; and is certainly, in its structure, *contrary to all other* remains of British works.

Those who have assigned to the Danes the credit of being the founders of Stonehenge, surely were not aware of the difficulties to which they committed themselves. One observation is sufficient to overthrow their belief. We are informed by Bishop Gibson, that Stonehenge is *mentioned* by Nennius, who lived about 620. Now the Danes did not visit this country till the reign of Egbert, upwards of two hundred years after. The opinion seems to have originated from the circumstance of several similar circles, though on a smaller scale, that are to be met with in Denmark, and on the shores of Sweden. Some of the most remarkable of these are described by Mr. Coxe, in his interesting Tour through the Northern Countries*. But these circles were not the work of the present inhabitants: they have no memorials concerning such

* Travels into Poland, Russia, Sweden, and Denmark, vol. v. p. 311. Fourth edition.

remains;

remains; only that the popular traditions attribute them to a race of giants formerly inhabiting these countries. The giants here alluded to, were the Cimbri, which should not be confounded with the Goths, and of whom a remnant, under the name of Wendi, is to be found still existing among the mountains of Saxony speaking a sister dialect of the Cymraeg of Wales; and who are ever called Welshmen by their Gothic neighbours.

The deduction may be made in a few words. In the foregoing statement we find historical records in unison with particular principles and maxims of the Bardic institution; the former fix the erection of Stonehenge to some point of time in the fifth century, subsequent to the massacre of the Britons; and the latter clearly militating against assigning its foundation to a period anterior to the Christian era.

Such, then, is my opinion of the time in which this structure was raised, and of the purpose for which it was intended; yet, if any facts can be adduced sufficiently powerful to overthrow the arguments here used, I shall willingly retract my assertions. My only wish is to elucidate a dark period of our history; if this can be effected by the superior validity of more authentic information, I shall readily acknowledge

my errors, and will embrace the truth, though it proceed even from the mouth of an enemy.

Having endeavoured to ascertain the origin of this celebrated structure, my next object will be to explain what it now is. This I will endeavour to do in a manner as clear and perspicuous as possible. To assist me in such explanation, and to give those persons who have not seen the place some idea of the disposition and arrangement of the stones, I have thought it adviseable to annex ground plans, &c. one, as *presumed* to be, when perfect, (Compartment II.) the other as it *now* remains. These I have partly copied from Mr. Smith, making some small alterations and corrections in Compartment I. particularly representing the position of the large trilithon which fell in 1797, fig. 13, and 14.

Stonehenge, when viewed from a distance, appears but a diminutive object. It seems like a spot on the surface of an immense area, or like the sails of a ship when very remote from land, as seen by a person on the beech. This is the idea excited when approaching it from Salisbury, a small sketch of which is given in Compartment II. A. The other sketch, B, represents it as seen from the north-east, when rising the hill towards Bulford. In this I have endeavoured to mark the raised road, which Dr. Stukeley calls

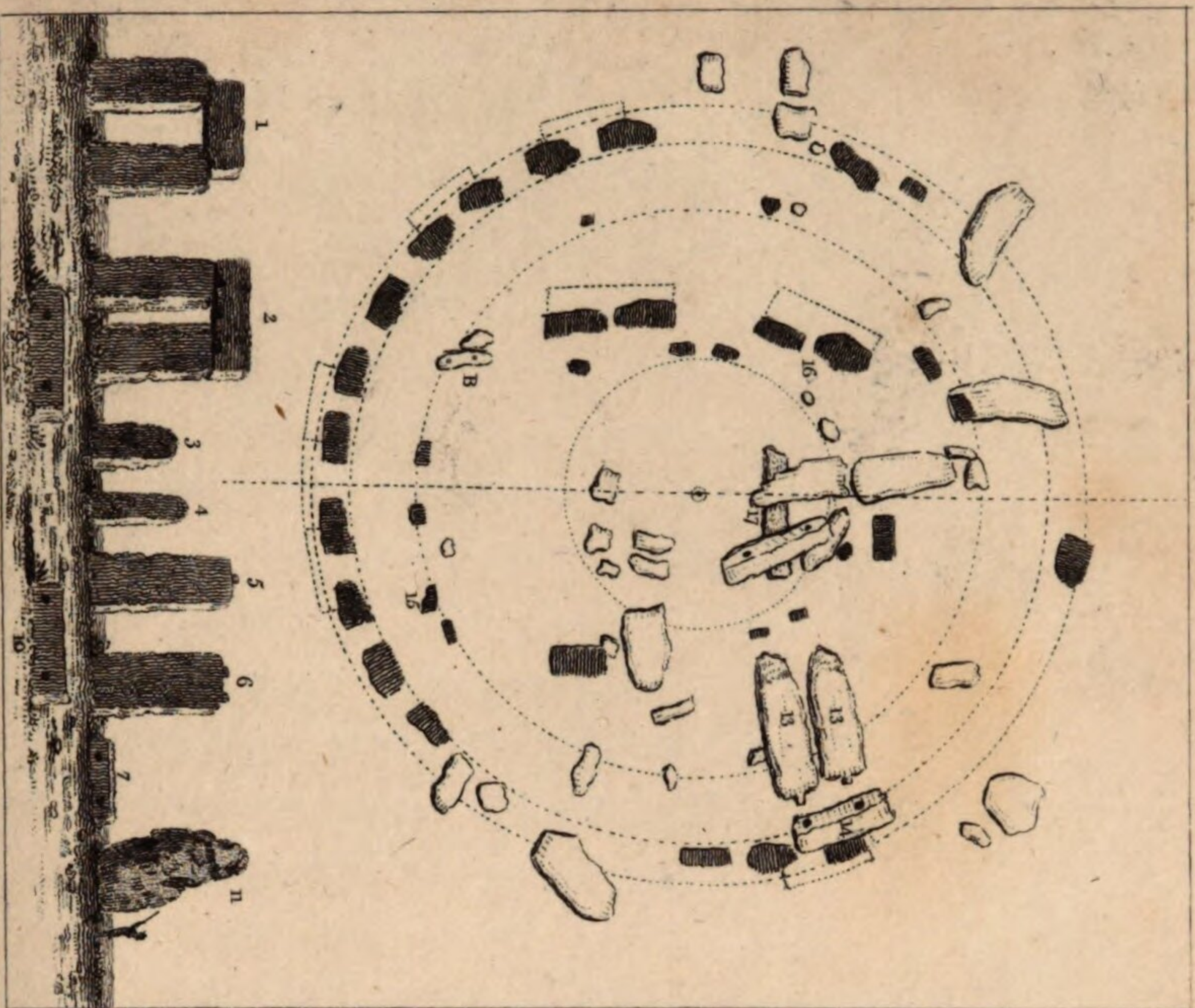


ST. JAMES' N. C.

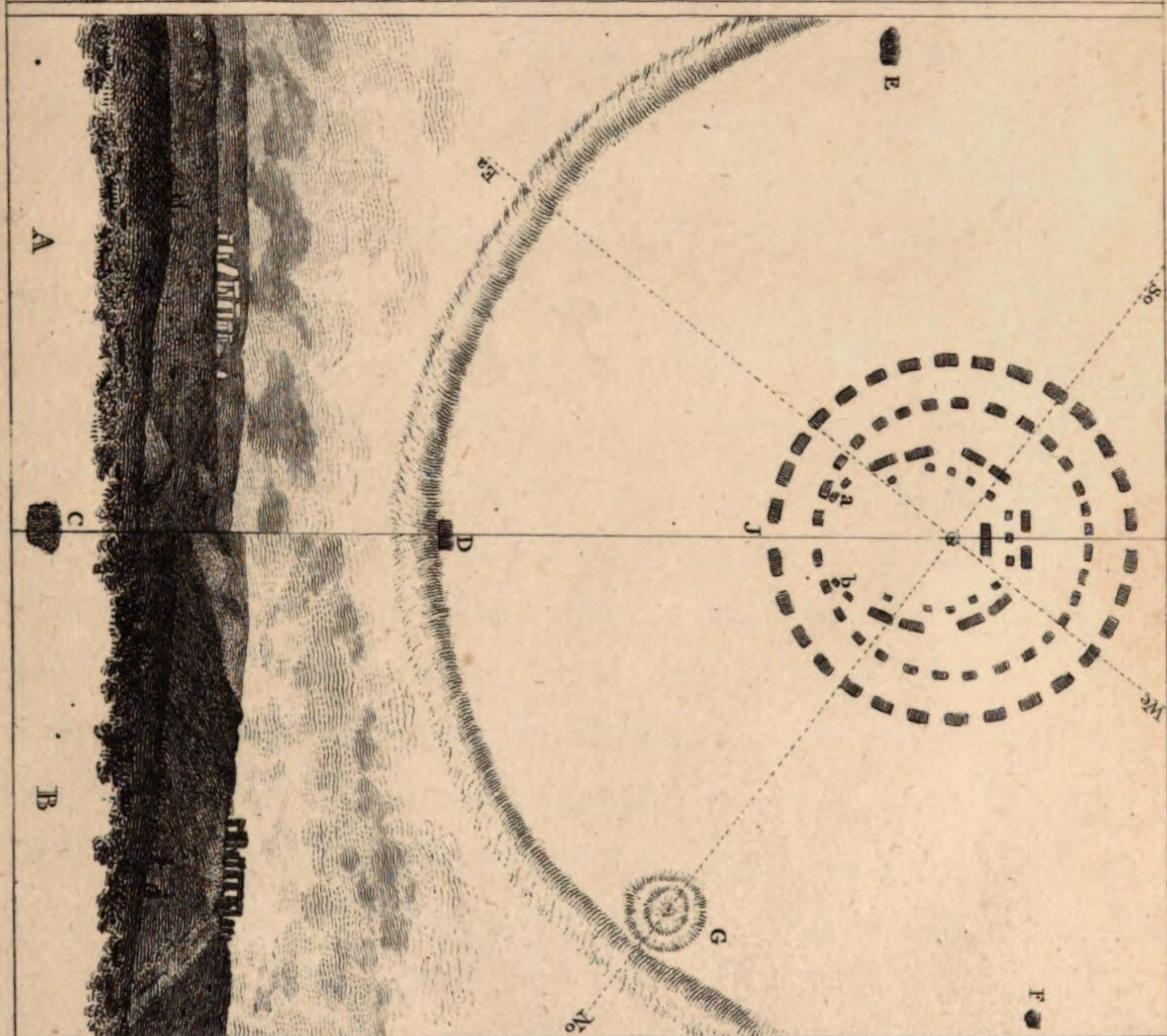
Ground Plans &c.

Under the direction of the Rev. John M. Smith, D.D., President of the University of North Carolina.

Compartment 1.



Compartment 2.



Drawn & Engraved by J. Bowen

STONEHENGE,

Ground Plans &c.

London: Published April 3. 1808. by Thomas Wood, Designer for the Quarries of Wiltshire.

calls the *Cursus*. Both views include some of the barrows. When I sketched A, the sun had just passed the meridian and shone immediately on the stones, which appeared quite white, as relieved from the distant rising grounds. The other represents them on the brow of the hill, quite dark against a light sky, as seen when the sun is declining in the west.

This singular combination of stones is supposed to have consisted originally of two circles, two portions of ovals, and some detached stones. This is generally acknowledged, and as such has been represented in the ground plans of Dr. Stukeley and Mr. Smith. The latter I have adopted from a conviction that it is the most correct. I shall not enter into an examination of the different plans and sections of it that have been published, for it is a singular fact, that there is as much difference and contradiction in this particular, as on its origin and uses. The plans published by Inigo Jones, are so glaringly incorrect, that one can scarcely believe he ever saw the place. Compartment I. contains a ground plan of Stonehenge, as it existed in November, 1800, when I compared every view and ground plan I could obtain, with the structure. Those stones marked with cross strokes, represent such as remained standing; those that are fallen, and the fragments,

fragments, I have sketched with only a single outline, preserving the shape of the stones as nearly as possible.

The outer circle of stones originally consisted of thirty uprights, surmounted with an equal number of imposts, or stones horizontally placed on their tops. A portion of these is represented in Compartment I. fig. 1. The upright pillars of this circle have two tenons on the top, and the imposts two mortises to correspond. These are represented also in Compartment I. fig. 6, and 10. Only seventeen of these uprights remain standing, and six imposts, which are marked with small dotted lines projecting from the standing stones in the ground plan, Compartment I. These uprights are not all of an uniform size or height; though they are, on an average, about sixteen feet high, and measure commonly eighteen feet in circumference. The space between the uprights is nearly the same width as the stones; about three feet and a half. The entrance (marked J, Compartment II.) is wider than either of the other spaces

The second circle, also consisted of thirty uprights, without any imposts. These are of various species of stone, and of very different sizes; some are about seven feet high. One of these is shewn in Compartment I. fig. 3. This
range

range is about nine feet six inches distant, within-side the first circle. Fig. 15, Compartment I. Mr. Smith supposed was taken from some mineral spring; “for, betwixt the laminæ it appears like rusty iron; the colour of the stone is what the miners call pigeon-breasted.” Dr. Stukeley has represented this circle to consist of forty pillars. Mr. Wood has made out twenty-nine, and asserts that they were covered with imposts as those are of the outer circle. He seems to have derived this erroneous opinion from the situation and peculiarity of the impost marked B, Compartment I. Eight of these stones are now standing, but much mutilated.

The next and grandest part of this structure, was originally an ellipsis or oval. Inigo Jones made it an hexagon. In doing this he not only invented positions, but absolutely removed the site of those that were fixed and existed in *statu quō*.

This grand elliptical colonnade consisted of fourteen upright pillars, and seven architraves, which Dr. Stukeley expressively called trili-thons. Each pillar had one tenon, and each impost two mortises; see Compartment I. fig. 2, where they are represented complete. Fig. 5, shews the upright stone with its tenon; fig. 9, is

is the impost, with the relative situation of the two mortoises.

There are only six of these now standing, which are marked in the plan. The two flat stones marked 13, and the impost 14, are represented as they now lay. These fell down on the 3d of January, 1797.

Dr. Maton (a gentleman I have already mentioned) wrote an account of this circumstance, which has been published in the *Archæologia*, and from which I have extracted the following particulars: This trilithon “fell outwards, nearly in the western direction, the impost, in its fall, striking against one of the stones of the outer circle, which, however, has not thereby been driven very considerably out of its perpendicularity. The lower ends of the two uprights, or supporters, being now exposed to view, we are enabled to ascertain the form into which they were hewn. They are not right-angled, but bivelled off in such a manner that the stone which stood nearest to the upper part of the adytum, is twenty-two feet in length on one side, and not quite twenty on the other; the difference with the corresponding sides of the fellow-supporter is still greater, one being as much as twenty-three, and the other scarcely
nineteen

nineteen feet in length. The breadth of each is (at a medium) seven feet nine inches, and the thickness three feet. The impost, which is a perfect parallelopipedon, measures sixteen feet in length ; four feet six inches in breadth ; and two feet six inches in thickness.

“Now a cubic inch of the substance of which the above stones are composed, weighing according to my experiments, one ounce six pennyweights, the ponderosity of the entire trilion will be found to be nearly seventy tons ; the impost alone is considerably more than eleven tons in weight. This stone, which was projected about two feet beyond the supporters, made an impression in the ground to the depth of seven inches or more ; it was averted in its tendency to roll by the stone it struck whilst falling. It appears that the longest of the supporters was not more than three feet six inches deep in the ground, (measuring down the middle) nor the other but little more than three feet. In the cavities left in the ground, there were a few fragments of stone of the same nature as that forming the substance of the trilion, and some masses of chalk. These materials seem to have been placed here with a view to secure the perpendicular position of the supporters.”

“ We

“ We do not find the precise time of any alteration prior to this, upon record; it is therefore probable, that none may have happened for several centuries; and the late accident being the only circumstance ascertained with exactness, may be considered as a *remarkable era* in the history of this noble monument of ancient art.”

I was induced to prefix two small trilithons, marked a, and b, Compartment II. in consequence of the peculiarity of the stone, fig. 7, Compartment I.

This stone differs so materially from either of the imposts of the first circle, or of the large oval, that it has puzzled many people; nor can I assign it any place, unless there were two small trilithons, as marked in the annexed complete plan. Within-side there was another oval, comprised of thirteen upright stones, without any imposts. Besides these, there is a large flat stone, marked 17, Compartment I. called the altar. Within-side the vallum, are two other stones*, marked E and F; and a large flat one laying in a direct line with the entrance marked D, Compartment II. Another very large stone (indeed the most ponderous here) is situated by the road

* Mr. Owen conjectures that these stones formed part of a TRUE BARDIC, or Druidical circle, which existed here before the Romans came into the country.

side, in a direct line with the entrance marked c, fig. 11, and Compartment I. This is *unhewn*, and presents, says Mr. Carter, “a lively idea of a venerable Druidical figure with a flowing beard, in an attitude of devotion, bending towards the sacred pile.” Its height is sixteen feet four inches, and twenty-four feet nine inches in circumference; this immediately faces the entrance, and is five degrees, bearing towards the east from north-east. Directly north and south of the temple, just within the vallum, is the appearance of two circular cavities, encompassed with the earth that was thrown out of them. I have marked one of these, letter g, Compartment II.

By the foregoing statement it appears that this structure was formerly (I will not say originally) composed of one hundred and twenty-nine stones, situated in the following order :

Uprights of the outer circle,	30
Imposts, or architraves over the same,	30
The second circle,	30
'The great ova', or trilithons,	14
Imposts on them,	7
The inward oval,	13
The altar,	1
Three stones on the bank,	3
The large stone facing the entrance,	1
	129
	Out

Out of this number there appears to be only eighty-nine remaining, and a few fragments. The diameter of the outer circle is one hundred and four feet, just one third the diameter of the area included within the ditch, which is three hundred and twelve feet. This area consists of one acre and a quarter of land, and will contain six thousand people, allowing a square yard for each person to stand on.

Dr. Stukeley, when speaking of these remains, says, “Other buildings fall by piece meal; but here a single stone is a ruin, and lies like the haughty carcass of Goliath.” This is a very fair, and not much overstrained, comparison; but the following is one of those flights of fancy, which the Doctor too often indulged in, and thereby deceived many of his unsuspecting readers: “If you look upon the perfect part, you fancy *entire quarries mounted up into the air*; if upon the rude havock below, you see as it were the *bowels of a mountain* turned inside outwards.” Descriptions of this kind have been often promulgated, though I never knew one more hyperbolic than the preceding. They excite false ideas; and many people, upon viewing the structure, find it not answerable to their sanguine expectations. I felt this when I first saw it; and know several persons who experienced the same. Although
we

we readily acknowledge that it is a wonderful structure, yet we should not suffer our admiration to overpower our reason. It has long been denominated the wonder of the island*; but the *mystery* that attends its *origin*, is the most surprising circumstance attached to it. The resources and energies of human genius are boundless, and have effected, in the regions of art and science, much more admirable and extraordinary performances than Stonehenge. I mention these hints, not with a view of detracting from the ingenuity and skill displayed in the erection of this structure, but to deduce this inference, that such stones may be raised now, and probably with much less labour, and in a shorter time. The trilithon, fig. 16, says the Doctor, “happened to be of a very durable English marble, and has not been much impaired by weather. My Lord Winchelsea and myself took a CONSIDERABLE WALK on the top of it, but it was a FRIGHTFUL situation.” Mr. King was truly justified in calling this “an *odd* instance of *English oddity*.” Had these *daring adventurers* been taking a walk on the *top of Salisbury cathe-*

* Avebury is evidently much more ancient—was upon a more magnificent and extensive scale; yet this is scarcely noticed by writers, nor is it known by hundreds of people in *this* county.

dral, such an account of their *frightful situation* would appear justifiable; but surely twenty feet from the ground, and ten feet in length, could not be so very *frightful*, or *considerable*!

I will not detain the reader much longer on this subject; nor do I intend to enter into a discussion concerning its astronomical application; though I believe that Mr. Smith's hypothesis is not so chimerical as many persons, who have only looked at it superficially, will acknowledge. But as I have not examined it with that accuracy which might enable me to decide, I will not support an hypothesis, or advance a proposition, but what I *believe* to be strictly correct, and founded on reasonable deductions.

Amongst the multitude of drawings and plates that I have seen of this structure, few are either correct, or calculated to convey a just idea of the number of stones, their circular appearance, their shape, or relative proportion. The person who drew it for the *Britannia*, must have seen it from the clouds; but as I cannot follow him *there*, I shall pass by his bird's-eye view. The views in Inigo Jones's work, drawn by J. Hassell, are tolerably correct; but the situations are not well chosen, nor is any *keeping* preserved. There are many insignificant ones published separately, and in books, but unworthy of notice. The
most



Britton del.

STONEHENGE.

Stone Sculpt.

London, Published April 2, 1851, by Vernon & Wood, Printers, for the Trustees of the British Museum.

most common of the stones published, is the one which is noticed. Two or three others, Mr. R. has, and he has a mastery of the stone, and the correct position of the stone by Mr. Byrne to his right hand. The picture, which is only a sample of the stone.

The accuracy of the stone is maintained by those who are working it, and the structure, yet I am the only one who still exists. The collection of stones, and the number of displaced and broken stones, makes it a matter of considerable difficulty to determine their relative situations and positions.

Many persons have supposed these stones to be Compositum, and there are those who still persist in this erroneous opinion. The skilled mineralogist knows the contrary. The man* well versed in this matter, and the following account of the characters of the stones.

All the great pillars, as those forming the outer wall, the five pair innermost, and the great stone, with the two lateral ones near the

Notes and Observations on Natural History and Mineralogy, by Robert Townson, LL.D.

most considerable, and most correct *ever* yet published, is in Mr. King's elegant work already noticed. Two of these were drawn by the Rev. Mr. Racket, and are *etched* in a very tasty and masterly style by Mr. Storer. Another, from the correct pencil of Mr. Hearne, is published by Mr. Byrne in his antiquities. This is a *beautiful picture*, with a fine grand effect; but it is only a partial view of *some* of the stones.

The accuracy of my own can best be ascertained by those who will compare it with the structure; yet I fear that, notwithstanding all my endeavours to be exact, some faults may still exist. The confusion that arises from the number of displaced and broken stones, renders it a matter of considerable difficulty to determine their relative situations with correctness.

Many persons have supposed these stones to be Composition, and there are those who still persist in this erroneous opinion. The skilful mineralogist *knows* the contrary; and a gentleman* well versed in this science, gives the following account of the characters of these stones: "All the great pillars, as those forming the outward circle, the five pair innermost, and the great stone, with the two lateral ones near the

* Tracts and Observations on Natural History and Physiology, by Robert Townson, LL. D.

ditch, are of a *pure, fine-grained, compact sand-stone*, which makes no effervescence with acids. As far as the lichens which cover the pillars, will permit one to judge, some are of a yellowish colour, others white. The second row of pillars, and the six which are innermost of all, are of a kind of *fine grained grünstein*, where the *black hornblende* is the only constituent which has a crystalline form, or spatous appearance. This, in some pillars, is but sparingly scattered in the principal mass; in others, it forms a principal part. The mass, or ground, has a finely speckled green and white appearance, an uneven fracture, makes a slight effervescence with acids, and may be scratched with a knife. This stone strikes fire difficultly with steel. But in this second row there are two pillars of a quite different nature. That on the right hand, is a true and well characterized *blackish siliceous shistus*, the *kiesel schiefer* of Werner; that on the left, is *argillaceous shistus*. The great slab, or altar, is a kind of *grey cos*, a very fine-grained, calcareous sand-stone. It makes a brisk effervescence in nitrous acid, but dissolves not in it; strikes fire with steel, and contains some minute spangles of silver mica."

I trust that these particulars will be sufficient to remove every doubt that may exist concerning
ing

ing the quality of these stones. I wish that *my arguments* may prove equally satisfactory relative to their destination; but should I not succeed in this respect, I shall ever feel a conscious satisfaction of having discharged my duty to my reader, in having assiduously endeavoured to furnish him with the most correct and faithful delineations of this structure than any that have ever before appeared. I shall now close my observations with the following Sonnet, by *T. Warton*.

THOU, *noblest* monument of *Albion's isle*,
Whether by Merlin's aid, from Scythia's shore
To Amber's fatal plain, Pendragon bore,
Huge frame of giant hands the mighty pile,
T'entomb his Britons, slain by Hengist's guile*,
Or Druid Priests, sprinkled with human gore,
Taught 'mid thy massy *maze* their mystic lore:
Or Danish chiefs, enrich'd with savage spoil,
To Victory's idol vast, an unhewn shrine,
Rear'd the rude heap; or, in thy hallow'd round,
Repose the Kings of Brutus' genuine line;
Or here those Kings in solemn state were crown'd:
Studious to trace thy pond'rous origin,
We muse on many an ancient tale renown'd.

* One of the Bardic traditions about Stonehenge.

SECT. XXI.

AMBRESBURY,

COMMONLY called Amesbury; gives name to the hundred in which it is situated.

Without resorting to the contradictory opinions that have been advanced concerning the origin of this place, it is sufficient to observe, that from every inference which can be deduced, Ambresbury was undoubtedly a British settlement. Whether it received its denomination, according to Toland, from *Ambres' consecrated stones*, from its neighbouring monument Stonehenge, being erected by Aurelius Ambrosius*, (Emrys) or from Ambri, a British monk, having founded a monastery here, (as already observed) is not easily to be determined. That it was a

* This valiant King is supposed to have been slain near this place in a pitched battle with the Saxons. In the decline of the Roman empire he took upon himself the government of Britain; and, with the assistance of the brave Arthur, repulsed the Saxons in several engagements.

town of much consequence in ancient times, seems unquestionable ; and it has been supposed that when the Britons resorted to the general *Gorssedd* at Stonehenge, Ambresbury might have been used as a resting place, or town of congregation ; and that in consequence, Ambri might have founded the monastery for the benefit of future devotees. That the monastery did exist is certain ; for all authorities agree that it was *destroyed* by a rapacious Saxon chief, called Gurthurn.

The dispersion of the Britons, and the successes of the Saxons, were not beneficial to monastic foundations, till the establishment of a monarchy, under which we observe a similar degree of devotion to revive ; and, from whatever cause arising, Ambresbury was refounded as a nunnery, by Elfrida, widow of King Edgar, in expiation, as is supposed, for the atrocious and unprovoked murder of her son-in-law, Edward the Martyr, at Corfe Castle. The mental fears of the guilty Queen were so great, that it is asserted she covered herself with little crosses, as amulets, in her imagination, sufficiently powerful to keep off the Devil, whose visitations she had but too much reason to dread, from the enormous wickedness of her conduct.

Her son, the weak and inglorious Ethelred the Second, was a benefactor to his mother's foundation ; but it is not improbable that the nunnery again sunk into obscurity during the government of the Danes, who were much more inclined to rapine and plunder than to the promotions of religious establishments, so contrary to their system of depredatory policy.

That, however, the nunnery did not sink into oblivion, is evident ; for the nuns were expelled in the reign of Henry the Second for incontinency, and others brought from Fontevrault, in Normandy, to replace them, whose conduct seems to have been of such a contrary nature, as to induce Queen Eleanor, widow of Henry the Third, to retire to Ambresbury, where she took the veil, and died a nun in the year 1291. Her example and persuasion impelled her granddaughter, Mary, the sixth daughter of Edward the First, in company with thirteen children of the English nobility, also to take the veil in this place at ten years of age, on Assumption-day, 1285.

The nunnery flourished under different benefactors till its dissolution under Henry the Eighth, when its revenues, amounting to 558l. 10s. 2d. were invested in the crown. These estates afterwards became the property of the
Queensbury

Queensbury family, and are now enjoyed by the reigning Duke.

The present house was built on the site of the monastery, from designs of Inigo Jones, and was finished by Mr. Webb, his son-in-law. Here the gentle and the modest Gay passed his happiest days, under the beneficent patronage of the late Duke and Duchess. For some years past the house was occupied by a society of nuns from Louvain, in Flanders, who sought peace and protection in this retirement, but have lately been removed to Dorsetshire. Here they were allowed to wear the proper habits of their order, and practise all the religious forms prescribed by the rules of St. Augustine.

The river Avon meanders through the gardens and grounds contiguous to the house ; over this is thrown a Chinese bridge and temple. These, and all the appurtenances of the gardens, are in a ruinous state. “ But Chinese summer-houses,” observes Mr. Thelwall, “ and diamond walks, and other reliques of the frippery of false taste, prevent the lover of native simplicity from bewailing the neglect. In a pictursque point of view, desolation itself is preferable to the spruceness and affectation of artificial scenery.”

A little westward of the river, is a camp, occupying the whole summit of a hill ; but the area

within the banks, is now filled with various trees, and was appropriated to pleasure grounds, by the late Duke of Queensbury. This has been generally attributed to Vespasian ; but from the barrows included within the vallum, its situation, and several other circumstances, I am inclined to think that it is the camp, or town, which is often mentioned and referred to in the old British writings, under the name of *Caer Caradoc*. That it might have been afterwards occupied by Vespasian's troops, is not at all improbable. It is constructed in the shape of an oblong square, with a very deep vallum towards the west. To the east it overlooks the town, and the hill is very steep down to the river, which runs close at its base. The road that leads from Ambresbury to Warminster, is cut through the rampart of this fortification.

The town of Ambresbury is pleasantly situated in a small irriguous valley on the banks of the Upper Avon, and consists of two streets. "The town * is straggling, and indifferently built, and has all the appearance of decay. It has been in a much more flourishing condition ; especially when the celebrated Duke and Duchess of Queensbury kept their court at Amesbury House.

* A pedestrian excursion. Monthly Magazine.

The memory of this is traditionally preserved among the inhabitants, who seem to envy the better times of their forefathers, and to repine (not without some shew of justice) that the rents collected from the produce of their industry are spent in distant neighbourhoods, or swallowed up by the prodigal vices of a large city. It would be well for Amesbury if this were its only calamity. There is one of a still more desolating nature, in which it partakes in common with the whole surrounding country ; I mean the *enormous accumulation of farms*. There are three or four individuals in this neighbourhood who rent to the amount of 1000l. each ; that is to say, so many agricultural canibals, who have devoured their eight or ten families apiece. The principal support of the town is the curiosity of travellers ; and some little time ago, when the nunnery was first established there, the number of visitors was very considerable ; and Amesbury had a transient gleam of reviving prosperity." The church is very antique and curious, and was probably appended to the abbey. A charity school was erected here in the year 1715, for the education of fifteen poor boys, and the same number of girls. The market day is on Friday ; and here are four annual fairs on May 17th,

17th, June 22d, October 6th, and the first Wednesday after the 12th of December. Ambresbury is a great thoroughfare to Warminster, Wells, &c.

I shall now conduct the reader across the Downs to Tottenham, with a few occasional remarks on some objects that occur in the course of this route. About two miles north of Ambresbury, on the banks of the Avon, is Bulford. Near this village are two large stones of the same kind as those at Stonehenge. One of them is situated in the middle of the river, and, as I am informed, has an iron ring fixed in it; but the waters being very high I could not see it. The other is on the Downs, a little to the south-east of the village; and about a mile farther up the valley is another, all evidently appertaining to the structure I have already described; but whether they were ever brought from the circle, or were left here on their passage, or whether they belonged to an avenue stationed between Stonehenge and Avebury, it is impossible to determine. Hence, all the way to Tidworth, the barrows are scattered about in great profusion. Tidworth is a small inconsiderable village, chiefly worthy of attention from being the residence of Edward Poore, Esq. whose collection of
drawings,

drawings, from the antique, prints, and books, are very rare and valuable. The house is but small and very secluded; yet here the man of literature and science will find ample amusement. Here are two or three good paintings by Mortimer, and several others by Italian artists. In this parish there is an alms-house, built by a former proprietor of the manor, for four persons of either sex.

About one mile north-west of this village, is Chidbury, or Shidbury Hill, which is considered to be the highest part of the plain. All the summit of this hill is occupied by a camp, which overlooks a most extensive expanse of country. The entrenchment, which only extends round part of the hill, is very deep. Aubrey calls it British, and this opinion seems highly probable. From the top of the hill, a ditch extends to a considerable distance towards the east, and a double one towards the north. The latter appears to have communicated with a town, which was situated at the foot of the hill. The inequality of the ground, and the intersecting entrenchments, induce me to think that some considerable ruins are buried beneath the turf. Very bad weather, and short days (November 1800) prevented me examining it as much as I wished. I must, therefore, leave it for the present, and

proceed to Ludgershall, which is about three miles east of this place.

Luggershall, Ludgershall, or Lurgershall, is a small borough town, though its appearance will scarcely entitle it to the name of a village, at least there are many villages in the county of much better appearance, and possessing many better buildings. But its glory is declining, and its importance, like the walls of its old castle, is nearly dwindled away. It is an ancient borough by prescription, and sent members to all the parliaments in the reign of Edward the First. It made three returns in the reign of Edward the Second, and three in the reign of Edward the Third. From the ninth of Richard the Second, till the ninth of Henry the Fifth, it was not represented, but ever since that period two members have been returned. The number of voters is about seventy ; they are either freeholders or leaseholders of the borough. Here, as at many other borough towns, every free house is numbered with *large figures* ; glaring stigmas of venality ! This is a distressing subject either to think on, or write about. I shall therefore leave it, and proceed to another,—the Castle ; which, though reduced to an unintelligible heap of rubbish, is probably much more pleasing to contemplate, than when garrisoned with ferocious

cious soldiers *. When it was erected, or by whom, I cannot discover. A legendary account states, that King Lud erected a castle here, which obtained the name of Lud-gar's-Hall. The first account I can meet with relative to this castle, is in Leland, who informs us, that “*Luggershall* was *sumtyme* a castle in Wiltshire, ten miles from Marlebrow, and four miles from Andover, almost in the waye betwixt. The castelle stooode in a parke, now clene downe. There is of late tymes a pratie lodge made by the ruins of it, and longgithe to the King.”

Speed mentions, that the Empress Maud took up her abode in this castle, in her flight from Winchester to Devizes.

Stowe informs us, that Richard the First gave this castle, with that of Marlborough, to his brother John, in the first year of his-reign. The only information I can find in Mr. Gough's Camden is, that it “was anciently a castle of Geofrey Fitz Piers, the wealthy chief justice of England, and Earl of Essex.”

It continued in his family till the reign of Henry the Third, when Jollan de Nevill was

* In Grose's Antiquities, there is such an unmeaning and insignificant *picture* of this castle, that it is surprising how any author, or bookseller of credit, could ever think of presenting it to the public. Both in design and execution, it is too tasteless even for the decoration of a common ballad.

constituted

constituted governor, who was succeeded by Robert de Walleran; and he was soon removed to give place to Roger Lord Clifford, who was afterwards beheaded.

In the reign of Edward the Third, this manor was invested in John Lord Molins, who obtained a grant to impark the woods. It afterwards reverted to the crown; but I do not find an account of any sieges or attacks upon this pile, and must therefore suppose that it was reduced to its present state by the operations of time, who neither bestows mercy on man, nor his works, but involves both the beggar and the king, the palace and the cottage, in one common fate of irretrievable ruin.



SECT.

SECT. XXII.

SAVERNAKE FOREST,

IS the property of the Earl of Aylesbury, and the only one in this country belonging to a subject. It is profusely wooded, and abundantly stocked with red and fallow deer; nearly two thousand being generally kept at one time in the forest and adjoining park of Tottenham, both of which include a space of ground nearly sixteen miles in circumference. The forest is intersected with a great number of walks and avenues, cut through its umbrageous woods and coppices; eight of these, like the rays of a star, concentrate in a spacious opening in the middle of the forest, where the late Earl intended to erect an octagon tower, whose sides should correspond with the entrances to each vista.

Mr. Gilpin, in a tone of regret, says, “that the vestiges of most of our English forests are obliterated;”—of “sylvan honours, scarcely any of them have the least remains to boast.” This
cannot

cannot apply to the forest of Savernake, the scenery of which is peculiarly fine and cannot but be highly interesting to the painter, who may here discover many of those subjects and effects which were so enchanting to the eyes of a Gainsborough, and a Wilson. The numerous herds of bounding deer, the prancing horse, and ragged colt, whose untutored manes flutter on the pinions of the breeze, the moss-grown venerable oak, the solemn beech, and the taper pine, unite to constitute it a scene truly picturesque, and might well give inspiration to the poet who delights in---artless Nature.

“ Majestic SAVERNAKE

Raises his wood-crown'd brow ; prospect sublime !
 Whether yon stately oaks, and slender pines,
 In well-plann'd order plac'd, attract the sight ;
 Or o'er the smooth-shorn plain, we turn our eye
 Beneath th' embow'ring shade, the lordly stag,
 And bounding hind repose, devoid of fear ;
 Around, their dappled young, in sportive play
 Wanton, and chace each other thro' the grove.
 From tree to tree the nimble squirrel springs ;
 The blackbird shrill, and sweetly warbling thrush,
 With echoing notes make the wide forest ring.”

GREENSTED'S FUGITIVE PIECES.

Many of the oaks in this forest are exceedingly large and majestic. The branches of one, called by way of pre-eminence the *King oak*, are as
large

large in girth as the boles of many full-sized trees. The ground they overspread is upwards of sixty yards in diameter.

The forest of Savernake, with the manor of Barton-cum-Marlborough, and other estates adjoining, were formerly assigned as part of the jointure of the Queen consort of England, particularly of Eleanor, wife of King Edward the Third. Among the Earl of Ailesbury's writings relating to the forest, are several warrants to the keepers, signed by her Highness, in a very fine hand, for the delivery of venison.

Savernake forest came into the possession of the Bruce family, through the marriage of Thomas Lord Bruce, afterwards Earl of Ailesbury, with Lady Anne Seymour, the daughter of Henry Lord Beauchamp, the sister and heir of William Seymour, Duke of Somerset, sixth in descent from the Protector, in the year 1676.

A noble avenue of beech, and nearly four miles in length, led me to Tottenham Park house, the seat of the Earl of Ailesbury.

“ The sprightly deer
Crop the fresh herbage, whilst the timorous hare
Sips, unmolested sips, the silver dew,
And sportive frisks along th' enamell'd glade.
Forth from yon shady covert, boldly stalks
The beauteous pheasant, rich in varied dye;
Fearless his brilliant plumage he displays :

No sportsman here directs the murd'rous tube
 To close in death the radiant victim's eye.
 'Midst green arcades, and wide extended lawns,
 In distant prospect view the noble pile,
 Magnificently plain; whilst gay alcoves,
 And airy fabrics, decorate the scene."

GREENSTED'S FUGITIVE PIECES.

This edifice was built under the direction of the late Earl of Burlington, on the site of an ancient palace*, burnt by the parliamentary forces during the civil wars. It is a square brick building, with towers at each corner, and was originally intended for a hunting seat. Since it has been made a regular dwelling, four wings have been added, in which are the rooms of state, &c.

Among the pictures which decorate this mansion, are the following:

Landscape, by Gasper Poussin.

Sampson and Delilah, by Vandyck.

Head of Lady Jane Seymour†.

Full length of Christian Bruce, Countess of Devonshire, by Vandyck.

* This palace belonged to the Marquis of Hertford, afterwards Duke of Somerset, so famous for his attachment to the royal cause in the reign of Charles the First. From him the present Earl is descended by the female line.

† There is a beautiful portrait of this lady at Woburn Abbey.

The

The first Lord Bruce, the master of the rolls, who came from Scotland with King James the First.

Thomas, Earl of Elgin, by Cornelius Jansen.

Robert, the first Earl of Ailesbury, son of the above, by Sir Peter Lely.

An ancient copy of the School of Athens, in the Vatican.

The beautiful genealogical pedigree of this family, from the Conquest to the conclusion of the seventeenth century, is in the possession of the present Earl. It is a long roll of vellum, splendidly gilt and illuminated, containing the arms and many whole length figures of the Seymour family, depicted in the costume of the times in which they lived. It is most charmingly executed, and the colours are exceedingly brilliant and beautiful. It also contains a representation of the "curious horn, or elephant's tusk in the shape of a horn," which is hung up in the library, and has been for many years in the hands of the present family*.

The following particulars of this singular curiosity were communicated by Dean Mills,

* There is a tradition among the keepers of the forest, that this horn was formerly carried and sounded by one of the keepers in his uniform, before the King, when he passed through the forest.

of Exeter, to the society of antiquaries; and afterwards printed in the third volume of the *Archaeologia*.

“ This ornamental piece of antiquity is supposed to have descended to the present noble possessor through the Seymours, by an alliance of this latter family with that of the Esturmys; Roger, the son of William Seymour, who accompanied the Black Prince into Gascony, having, in the reign of Edward the Fourth, married Maud, one of the co-heiresses of William Esturmy of Chadham, Lord of Wolf Hall, in the county of Wilts, Knight; which family, Mr. Camden observes, “ had been, ever since the reign of Henry the Second, hereditary bailiffs and keepers of the neighbouring forest of Savernake, &c. in memory of this, the Seymours still preserve their large hunting horn, ornamented with silver.”

“ The horn is about two feet long, and five and a half inches in diameter at the widest end, surrounded with three borders, and a mouth piece of silver, gilt, embellished with figures in enamel. The border, at the extremity of the horn, is two and a half inches wide; and, on the breadth of the outer verge, which is an inch in diameter, is represented, in sixteen compartments, as many hawks in different attitudes. In
the

the corresponding compartments, on the face of the border, are sixteen figures in relievo; the first of which represents an aged king with a long beard, and a crown upon his head, sitting under a Gothic canopy, having his right hand open and uplifted, and holding a sceptre erect in his left. In a compartment on his right hand sits a bishop in his mitre, holding a book to his breast with his right hand, and uplifting his left in the same attitude with the king. In the compartment to the left of the king, is a forester, or bailiff, with a cap on his head, and a close vest reaching to his knees; a belt is flung over his left shoulder, and to it hangs a horn which he blows, supporting it with his right hand, and holding a drawn sword erect in his left. The other compartments are filled alternately with a hound and some kind of game, as a stag, a hind, an unicorn, a fox, a hare; and on the side opposite to the king, a lion sitting. The hounds seem to be of two different kinds; some like the large heavy blood-hounds, others of a lighter and swifter kind, resembling a greyhound.

“The second border, to which one end of the belt was suspended by a ring, is two inches broad, and the figures on it represent the same hounds and game, except that a squirrel is represented among them.

“The third border, to which the other extremity of the belt was fastened, is of the same dimensions, and had the like figures, but being decayed, was restored by the family, in imitation of the original.

“The belt belonging to the horn, and depicted with it in the Seymour pedigree, is of green worsted, with buckles and hinges of silver, gilt, embellished with ornamented figures, and fourteen bosses of the same metal, on which is represented the following coat armour: az. within a double tressure fleuri, and contre fleuri G. three lozenges of the seconds.”

The Dean having thus particularly described the horn, and illustrated his description with several correct drawings, proceeds to prove, that “it must have belonged to some considerable personage, though neither the English nor Scottish books of heraldry furnish precisely these arms;” but to whom it *first* belonged, he is unable to determine.

Opposite the north front of the house, at the distance of about one mile, on a high spot of ground, stands a lofty column, which bears the following inscription on a pedestal:

This
1715

THIS COLUMN WAS ERECTED
BY THOMAS BRUCE, EARL OF AILESBUURY,
AS A TESTIMONY
OF GRATITUDE
TO HIS EVER HONOURED UNCLE,
CHARLES, EARL OF AILESBUURY AND ELGIN,
WHO LEFT TO HIM THESE ESTATES,
AND PROCURED FOR HIM THE BARONY
OF TOTTENHAM :
AND OF LOYALTY
TO HIS MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN
GEORGE III.
WHO, UNSOLICITED, CONFERRED UPON HIM
THE HONOUR OF AN EARLDOM:
BUT, ABOVE ALL,
OF PIETY
TO GOD, FIRST, HIGHEST, BEST,
WHOSE BLESSING CONSECRATETH EVERY GIFT,
AND FIXETH ITS TRUE VALUE.
MDCCLXXXI.

On the opposite side of the pedestal is written :

IN COMMEMORATION
OF A SIGNAL INSTANCE OF HEAVEN'S PROTECT-
ING PROVIDENCE
OVER THESE KINGDOMS,
IN THE YEAR 1789,
BY RESTORING TO PERFECT HEALTH,
FROM A LONG AND AFFLICTING DISORDER,
OUR EXCELLENT AND BELOVED SOVEREIGN,
GEORGE III.

THIS TABLET WAS INSCRIBED BY
THOMAS BRUCE, EARL OF AILESBUURY.

A neat mansion has been lately erected, near the site of an ancient building in the forest, called Bagden Lodge, (now named Savernake Lodge). It is situated in the midst of the forest, having a pleasant lawn in front, and surrounded by the most beautiful woods and plantations, &c. It is intended as a temporary residence for Lord Bruce, only son to the Earl of Ailesbury, and Colonel of the Volunteer Wiltshire Yeomanry Cavalry.

At a little distance from Tottenham Park, are the remains of Wolf Hall, formerly the seat of Sir John Seymour, father of Lady Jane Seymour and the Duke of Somerset. Lady Jane was maid of honour to Anna Boleyn, when Henry the Eighth fell in love with her. That tyrannical monarch, who admitted no impediment to stand in opposition to the gratification of his desires, caused his unfortunate queen to be beheaded, on the 19th of March, 1536, and married Jane Seymour the very next day! It is said that the marriage was solemnized, and the wedding dinner served up, in a part of this building, now detached from the rest, and used as a barn; and that, on this occasion, the apartment was hung with tapestry, some remnants of which, with the tenter hooks that fastened it, are still shewn in confirmation of the story. A path
leading

leading hence to Tottenham Park, is yet distinguished by the name of King Henry's Walk.

A few miles from Tottenham Park, is the town of Great Bedwin. This, in the Saxon times, was the metropolis of *Cissa*, who acted as viceroy of Wiltshire and Berkshire, under the King of Wessex.

Cissa erected a castle on a hill to the south of the town, the ditches of which are still to be seen.

A bloody battle was fought here between Wulferc and Escuin, A. D. 695.

Great Bedwin is a borough by prescription, and sent members to parliament as early as the reign of Edward the First.

The church is built of flints, and is very spacious. Sir John Seymour, father to the Protector, and Lady Jane, was buried here.

The famous *Oxonian* physician, Dr. *Thomas Willis*, was born in this town. He was wholly educated at Oxford; and in 1636, was retainer to Dr. Thomas Isles, canon of *Christ-Church*, where he applied himself closely to his studies, and became master of arts in 1642. When Oxford was garrisoned for the King, at the breaking out of the civil wars, he took up arms in defence of his sovereign, yet neglected no opportunity of acquiring knowledge. He applied himself

himself chiefly to the study of medicine, in which art he commenced Bachelor in 1646.

After the city had surrendered he took a house, practised physic, and quickly became celebrated for his great skill and success. His house was an harbour for the royalists, who daily read prayers in it, and administered the sacraments. At the Restoration, he was rewarded for his attachment to the royal cause, by being made *Sidley's* professor of natural philosophy, and soon after created a doctor of his faculty; in which situation his fame increased so rapidly, that, on his arrival in London, he was elected fellow of the Royal Society, and member of the College of Physicians. He died November 11th, 1675, and was buried in Westminster Abbey. He wrote many medicinal works, some of which were published after his decease, by Dr. Fell, his brother-in-law.



SECT.

SECT. XXIII.

MARLBOROUGH,

ANCIENTLY written Marlbridge, Marleberge, &c. but now commonly Marlbro', is situated on the northern bank of the river Kennet. This town is generally believed to occupy the site of the ancient Roman station of Cunetio, mentioned by Antoninus in his 14th Iter, and there stated to be twenty miles from Verlucio, (Heddington) and fifteen miles from Spinis, (Speen). Whereas the distance in English miles from Marlborough to Heddington, is not more than fifteen, (the Roman way) and to Speen it is about nineteen. This circumstance induces me to think that Cunetio was situated higher up the road, which conjecture is considerably strengthened by two corroborating facts; the intersection of two Roman ways, which cross each other near a place still called *Cross-ford*, and within two miles is Chisbury Castle, a very considerable entrenchment. I offer this merely as
a conjecture,

a conjecture, not having investigated the subject with that attention which might enable me to advance other arguments, or to adduce decisive evidence.

Marlborough is supposed to derive its name from the marl, or chalky soil, on which it is built. Our ancestors made use of the term *marle* indiscriminately to all earths that partook of either chalk, or bluish clay. To develop the origin of this town, seems as difficult a task as to ascertain with precision the exact situation of the Roman *Cunetio*. If the Saxons ever had a station here, every vestige of such a circumstance is lost; and it is but slightly mentioned in the Domesday-book, which says, that “William de Belfon has one hide, with a church, in *Marleberge*, which is worth thirty shillings.” Marlborough is the chief town in the hundred of Selkley, and has been of some importance in former days, when its castle was inhabited by the haughty Baron, and the Kings of the realm honoured it with their residence.

Previous to the Roman conquest, we find no satisfactory particulars concerning this place, nor can I discover when the castle was erected; that it was a fortification of some strength and importance in the reign of Richard the First, seems evident from the following circumstance:

This

This adventurous monarch, whilst pursuing his military career in foreign countries, left his own to the government of two bishops ; and whilst he was languishing in prison, his brother John, who was afterwards King of England, seized many towns and castles ; amongst others, it appears, that he gained possession of Windsor, Walsingford, and this of Marlborough ; but his dominion was of short duration. His ambitious designs were resisted by the firmness of his mother, and the vigour of the barons who remained attached to the cause of their imprisoned sovereign ; his adherents were overpowered, and he himself departed for the Continent to solicit assistance.

Richard, being released from captivity, soon afterwards returned to England ; and the castle of Marlborough was quickly reduced by Hubert, Archbishop of Canterbury.

In the 52d year of Henry the Third, A. D. 1267, a parliament was summoned to meet here, to provide for “ The better state of the realm of England, and the more speedy administration of justice.” In this assembly, laws were passed for the suppression of tumults, &c. these have been denominated, and are still called, “ The Statutes of Marlbridge.”

The castle, which most probably had been erected by the Normans, was nothing but a heap of ruins in Camden's time. Since that, the scattered fragments have been removed, and an handsome house built on the spot by the Marquis of Hertford; this has long been converted into a commodious inn, the most considerable for size in this part of the kingdom, and still retains the name of "The Castle." A few remains of the fortifications are yet visible, on the outside of the garden-wall, and many coins have been found in its vicinity. The great mount in the gardens of the castle, has been by many people considered as a barrow; but Mr. King says, "this conclusion is founded in a mistake; and that the mount at Marlborough was no barrow; but raised by the Normans as the foundation of a great keep of a castle at that place, consistently with the construction of all their earliest castles; the mounts of which are to be most carefully distinguished (as they easily may be) from barrows."

In this neighbourhood, the poet Thomson is reported to have composed a portion of his inimitable Seasons, while on a visit to the Marquis of Hertford, the virtues of whose Countess he has celebrated in the commencement of his Spring.

"O Hertford,

“ O Hertford, fitted or to shine in courts,
With unaffected grace, or walk the plain
With innocence and meditation, join'd
In soft assemblage, listen to my song,
Which thy own season paints, when nature all
Is blooming, and benevolent, like thee.”

The town of Marlborough principally consists of one very wide street, running from east to west. It is composed of irregular buildings, many of which bear evident marks of great antiquity. On one side, a piazza, projecting before the shop-windows, forms a pleasant promenade for the inhabitants, who, by this means, are enabled to take the air, even in bad weather. Most of the houses are built with brick, the remainder of wood; the fronts of many of the latter are very curiously carved. Each side of the street is paved with rough pebbly stones, called sarcens, which are obtained in abundance from the neighbouring Downs.

The market-house, for cheese, butter, and corn, is situated at the east end of the street. It is an ancient building, singularly constructed, but of late years has been repaired and much improved. Over the market-place is the council-chamber, assembly-room, and a court, where the session for the county is held once a year.

The plot of ground near St. Mary's church, called the Green, is said to answer to the original

nal site of a temple. A little to the south, was the gate, and some other relics of an hospital for brethren and sisters*, founded, according to Speed, by John Goodwin and William Ranisbeck. It was dedicated to St. John the Baptist; and its revenues valued, at the suppression, at 6l. 18s. 4d. King John confirmed divers lands which had been given to this house. On the south side of the street are the remains of a priory (now converted into a private house) of regular canons of St. Augustine, supposed by Gough, to have been founded in the reign of King John. At the dissolution of the monasteries, its revenues amounted to 38l. 9s. 2d.

The shambles, or meat-market, is in the middle of the High-street; at the east end of which street is the old church of St. Mary. The door-way to the belfry is of Saxon workmanship, and presents a fine specimen of the Cheveron, or zigzag ornaments. The tower is built with free-stone. At the opposite end of the street is St. Peter's church; it has a lofty square tower, surmounted with battlements and pinnacles. The roof of this church is supported by light pillars.

Marlborough is an ancient borough by prescription, honoured by several royal charters. It sends two members to parliament.

* Gough says, "a Priory of White Friars."

The town is governed by a mayor and two justices, (who hold a quarterly session of the peace for the town) with an indeterminate number of burgesses, and a council.

In former days, every person on admission into the corporation, presented the mayor two greyhounds, two white capons, and a white bull. This ancient custom is plainly alluded to in the arms of the town, which are ; party, per saltier G. and A.; on the first and third quarter G. a bull; in the second az. a cock or capon, A.; on the base, G. three greyhounds current, A.; between two roses.

Very little trade or manufactures are carried on here. The town is chiefly supported by the advantages arising from its situation; it being a great thoroughfare on the high western road, and possessing a market deservedly famous for its corn, butchers' meat, and excellent cheese. The market is held on Saturday.

Several privileges have been conferred on this town by different monarchs. The first charter was granted in the reign of King John, in the year 1204.

Marlborough has often suffered by fire, particularly in the year 1690. Soon afterwards the town obtained an act of parliament to prohibit the covering of houses with thatch.

Among the privileges possessed by the inhabitants, every householder has the liberty of keeping two cows on the common in the day-time, for which the corporation pay a small rent to the Earl of Ailesbury, as lord of the manor.

From Marlborough I must beg the reader's attendance across an extensive tract of open downs, to Devizes. Although I pass Avebury, without describing its bulky stones and vast entrenchment, it is not my intention to neglect this once *magnificent British structure*. No; I hope to furnish the reader, in a future part of my work, with a correct and particular account of this place: it is an object of too great importance in the history of the ancient Britons to be treated in a cursory manner.



SECT.

SECT. XXIV.

DEVIZES,

IS a town of considerable extent, situated near the centre of the county; but whether it boasts a British, or Roman origin, is very doubtful. Dr. Stukeley contends, on the sole authority of the Monk of Ravenna, for this town being the same with the Roman *Punctuobice*, and that it derives its name from an old British King, Divisus, whom he has christened *Divitiachus*. Dr. Musgrave, in his *Belg. Britan.* thinks it must have been a Roman town; Dr. Salmon endeavours to substantiate this opinion, and insists that the Verlucio of Antoninus was situated in, or near it. That it was not the latter, I have already endeavoured to prove; and it seems equally doubtful whether the Romans ever had any station here; yet, if I gave implicit confidence to the assertion of Dr. Stukeley, I should not have any doubt on this point, for he boldly declares, “That the town was inclosed by the Romans with a

vallum and ditch ;" and that it "took in the castle, which was *originally Roman*, but afterwards rendered impregnable by Roger, Bishop of Salisbury." The author of *Origines Divisianæ*, speaking of this passage, says, he conceives that the castle *here* mentioned did not stand on the hill, "but in the *air*."

As we find the origin of the town involved in so much ambiguity and uncertainty, let us look into the history of the castle, where I fear the documents will be equally unsatisfactory. The annotator upon the life of Alfred, declares it was built by that King, who, we are well assured, was particularly engaged with the Danes in this part of the country. The battles at Wilton, Eddington, Stourhead, Chippenham, &c. are expressly noticed; and from these circumstances it is very probable he had a residence, if not a castle, at this place. But other writers contradict this, and affix the period of its erection in 1132, by Roger, Bishop of Salisbury. When there exists so much contradiction, and the finger of time has blotted the legibleness of historic documents, we had better remain in error, than substitute conjectural falsehoods in the room of uncontrovertible facts. Let us content ourselves, then, with such authentic particulars, or probable arguments, as can be collected. Speed
says,

says, it was one of the goodliest castles in Europe; and Hollinshed asserts, that it was the strongest hold in England. In the life of Bishop Roger, it is said to have been *strengthened* and *embellished* by him, but not a word is said of its erection. The fate of this prelate is intimately connected with the history of the castle; and as we know nothing of the latter before the former rendered it a conspicuous national ornament, I shall first present the reader with some particulars of this singular character. Many persons are born to hereditary titles and fortunes; others acquire both, by the possession of extraordinary talents, or from some remarkable incident of good fortune. This was the happy lot of Roger, who was elevated from a small Norman curacy to the highest honours and preferments of the English court. Prince Henry, who was afterwards King of England, being on a *military* expedition near Caen, in Normandy, went to hear mass at a church in the vicinity of that city; Roger happened to read prayers on the same day, and knowing that the *business* of a soldier militated against all religious ceremonies, and thinking that long prayers, and fervent ejaculations, would not suit the ideas of his warlike congregation, he ran through his routine of service with the most careless expedition; this sagacious ma-

nœuvre obtained him the favour of the Prince, who immediately enlisted the clergyman under his banner. Roger, though not deeply read in literature, seems to have studied mankind, for he so completely ingratiated himself into the Prince's good opinion, that he soon became his confidential friend, and faithful humble servant. The Prince's finances were rather low, his expences had exceeded his brother's allowances, and his concerns were considerably embarrassed; but by the prudential plans, and economical regulations of Roger, he was completely relieved from pecuniary distresses when he came to the throne; where he was no sooner settled but he declared, that the Bishop would sooner be tired of asking favours, than he of bestowing. This he partly verified, by conferring on him lands, churches, prebends, and abbies. He created him Bishop of Sarum, and chief Justiciary of England. While in these high stations, the exalted Bishop spent great sums in "strengthening and embellishing his possessions at Sarum, Devizes, and Malmsbury." I have already recorded (vol. I. p. 25.) some particulars of this "proud prelate," and related that Stephen's cruelty hastened his death, which seems to have been occasioned by the following combination of circumstances:

Henry

Henry the First summoned the estates of the realm to swear allegiance to his posterity, which Roger readily agreed to; but the King dying soon after, the Bishop forgot his oath, or disregarded its validity; for, contrary to its tenor, he endeavoured to fix Stephen on the throne, instead of Henry's daughter Matilda. He little anticipated the consequences that would result from such a measure, nor dreamed that the man who was promoted to the throne through the medium of the prelates, would treat them with insult and cruelty: but so it happened; for the ambitious Stephen had not long enjoyed his crown before he summoned a council at Oxford, where Roger was cited to appear. The Bishop attended with much reluctance. The King sought a pretence for quarrelling with the clergy, from a desire to dispossess them of their castles. At this place, a preconcerted plan was to be carried into execution: a quarrel was excited between the servants of Allan, the Earl of Brittany, and those of the Bishop, which produced a severe battle. On this circumstance the King founded a pretext for seizing those castles belonging to the Bishops. He summoned Roger, his son, and nephews, to appear, some of whom refusing to comply with the King's mandate, he ordered them to be arrested. But the Bishop of

Ely secured himself in the castle of Devizes; whereupon Stephen hastened with his prisoners to this castle, which he immediately laid siege to. Ely refused to surrender, although the King had erected a gallows, and threatened instant death to the Bishop's son, unless his nephew gave up the castle. Ely remained obdurate, and the rope was placed round the neck of young Roger, and every thing prepared for immediate execution; when the old Bishop, eager to preserve the life of his beloved son, and save him from such an ignominious death, pledged himself by a solemn oath, not to *taste food* until his nephew the Bishop of Ely, should resign the castle to his Majesty. But the inexorable Ely suffered the old Bishop to fast *three days*, and then unwillingly surrendered. The grief and anxiety of mind, and the cravings of hunger, brought on a quartan ague, and hastened his death, which happened, as I have already noticed, in December, 1139. Upon the King's taking possession of the castle, he found it to contain immense riches, which amounted, according to Knighton, to the sum of forty thousand marks, and was esteemed one of the most splendid castles in Europe. The author of Roger's life, in the *Antiquitates Sarisburiensis*, concludes his memoir in these words: "Making allowance for the
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the times, and the calumniating temper of party writers, the character of Roger, when calmly viewed, will not wear the disagreeable aspect it hitherto has appeared under. At most, we shall find the same mixture in his, as in the character of all *great statesmen—eminent abilities, and eminent defects.*”

On the 25th of April, 1141, the castle was seized by Robert Fitzherbert, who boasted that he would be master of all the country from Wiltshire to London; but John, the governor of the castle at Marlborough, seized him, and caused him to be hanged.

We find no other particulars relative to this citadel for nearly a hundred years, when it was made the place of confinement for Herbert de Burgh, another prime-minister, and a man of some notoriety in the reign of Henry the Third. Peter de Rupibus obtained the government of the castle for the sole purpose of mal-treating the fallen minister. However, Hubert was released by means of G. Basset and R. Siward, two stout young men, who were determined to share his fortunes. These resolute youths having effected his escape in an extraordinary manner, lodged him at the high altar of the parish church, whence he was again seized and re-conducted to his prison; but Robert, Bishop of Salisbury, interfering,

terfering, jointly with Roger, Bishop of London, excommunicated the guards who had taken him from his sanctuary ; ultimately, Hubert's friends succeeded in gaining his release, and he was restored to Henry the Third's precarious favour, in which he continued till his death.

How long this castle stood before it was dismantled, is not easily to be ascertained ; in Camden's time it was greatly mutilated. I can only add an imperfect list of its wardens, viz. Philip de Albini, 3d Henry the Second, 1156 ; Ralph Wilington, 17th Henry the Third, 1232 ; Peter de Rupibus, 18th Henry the Third, 1233 ; John Plesset, 19th Henry the Third, 1234 ; Ditto, 37th Henry the Third, 1252 ; Robert Nevil, Lord Raby, 47th Henry the Third, 1262 ; Philip, Lord Basset, of Wicomb ; Thomas Despencer, 48th Henry the Third, 1263 ; Philip, Lord Basset, 54th Henry the Third, 1269 ; Hugo le Despencer, 1st Edward the Second, 1307 ; Oliver de Ingham, 15th Edward the Third, 1321.

In the 27th of Edward the First, 1299, the King, by way of dower, settled the castle, town, and park of Devizes, with the forests of Melksham, Chippenham, and Pewisham, and the manor of Rowde, with all appurtenances in Wiltshire, to the value of 24 l. on his queen, Margaret.

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The same liberties and donations were granted by Henry the Sixth to his queen, Margaret of Anjou.

Leland gives the following account of this castle: "That it stood on the south-west side of the town, stately advanced on a high ground, defended partly by nature, partly by dikes. It was made by Bishop Roger; and such a piece of castle-work, so costly and strongly, was never afore or since set up by any Bishop of England. The keep, or dungeon, on an hill cast up by hand, is a piece of work of incredible cost; there appeared on the gate six or seven places for port-cullises, and much goodly building was in it. It was then ruined, part of the front of the towers of the gate of the keep and chapel was carried, full improfitably, to build Mr. Baynton's place at Bromham, scarce three miles off; and divers goodly towers in the outer wall were going to ruin; the principal, leading into the town, was yet of great strength."

The site of the castle is now converted into pleasure gardens, belonging to Mr. Salmon; and in the place of the keep, or dungeon, is a pleasant summer-house, where we may now contemplate the surrounding country, or enjoy an hour's lonely meditation in *peace, security, and comfort.*

As in pictorial *sketches* we seldom *make out* all the minute parts, so in descriptive sketches we have the same liberty of omitting small or trifling objects, and being more particular in delineating not only the outline, but the prominent features of the more important subjects. Availing myself of this liberty, I shall pass over a long space of time, and bring the reader down to the great rebellion, when we find this town and neighbourhood again infested with the murdering soldiers, and tormented with those distressing transactions which characterized that unfortunate period. The history of these times is replete with horror. It makes one shudder to reflect on the misery, distress, and terror, which prevailed among all classes of society. As a proof of which, we need only relate what happened here. In July, 1648, the town of Devizes, which was occupied by the King's little army, was besieged, and the troops so completely surrounded, that it seemed almost impossible for them to escape, or evade the besiegers.

The parliamentary forces were commanded by Sir William Waller, who having seized the ammunition, &c. which was sent for the King's troops, and after harassing the besieged for some time, at length summoned them to surrender upon certain conditions. This partly allowed them
some

some respite from their severe duty. They rested themselves, with the hopes that his Majesty, who was then at Oxford, would send a reinforcement ; nor were their hopes disappointed, for the King ordered a large body of horse, under the command of Lord Wilmot, to repair immediately to Devizes. Waller having gained intelligence of their approach, drew his troops from the town, and formed them in order of battle on Roundaway-Hill, over which place he expected the King's troops would march. Having stationed his army in the most advantageous situation, with strong wings of horse, a body of reserve, and cannon well planted, he impatiently waited the arrival of his opponent, but finding that he did not come, Waller separated his troops, and marched his whole body of horse away from the infantry. At this moment he was encountered by Sir John Byron, whose vigorous onset was seconded by Lord Wilmot, both of whom charged them from division to division with such effect, that in a very short time, the whole of the cavalry were so routed and dispersed, that there was not one of them to be seen on this lofty hill. The infantry still continued firm, with a shew of resistance, but Lord Wilmot quickly seized their cannon, which he turned upon them, and
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the Cornish troops from the town, coming up at this juncture, the parliamentary army were completely vanquished, six hundred being killed on the spot, and nine hundred taken prisoners. All their cannon, camp-equipage, &c. fell into the hands of Lord Wilmot's party. Waller fled to Bristol with the small remnant of his army, leaving the town once more to repose after the tumults of battle. I will take my leave of this hateful subject, which can afford but *little* interest or amusement to the reader, at least if I may judge of his sentiments by my own ; for I am not ashamed to declare the sincere indignation which I feel when I reflect on, or am relating, these transactions of savage society ! Surely that people who will *voluntarily engage* in wars, or enter into alliances, for any other reason but from self-defence, cannot be considered as *properly civilized*, or fully sensible of their enormities, impieties, and guilt. Let every individual exert his influence to promote peace, to establish harmony between man and man, and preserve unanimity between nations. Then we shall have arrived at the *golden age* which poets have described ; an age when the arts and sciences will be sanctioned and promoted without controul ; when the island of Britain will become a garden of sweets and beauties ; when the
sword

sword and the musket shall give place to the plough-share and the scythe; and the heart-rending intelligence of *killed and wounded*, never blot that paper which should only be employed to impart amusement, instruction, and delight!!

Let us again revert to the town, and next examine some curious antiquities that were discovered here in the year 1714, at which time a gardener dug up an urn, and twenty-one small brass images, supposed to be *penates*, or household gods, and a coin of Severus, &c. These were afterwards exhibited about the country, and consequently obtained some degree of celebrity. From this discovery, some writers have inferred that the Romans *must* have had a permanent station here. But I do not conceive that this single circumstance is a sufficient ground to justify the deduction; for these might have been buried by some soldiers, previous to an engagement. Spartianus informs us, that “every soldier carried with him his money, and all such valuables that were portable.”

As these antiques were certainly very curious, I will present the reader with a list of some of those that were most perfect, with the names which were *then* prefixed to them, and their sizes and weights.

Venus,

Venus, a very well wrought figure, six inches and a half high—eleven ounces, four drams.

Jupiter Ammon, a complete figure, four inches and a half.

Neptune, a ditto, four inches, four oz. four dr.

Bacchus, ditto, four inches and a half, four oz. five dr.

Another, in drapery, ditto.

Another, ditto.

Virgo Vestalis, of Corinthian brass, a three quarter figure, three inches and a quarter, seven oz. four dr.

Vulcan, a complete figure, in drapery, three inches and a half, three oz. four dr.

Mercury, a complete naked figure, three inches and a quarter.

Another, in drapery, and a cap.

Apis, the Ægyptian Bull, four inches, six oz.

Anubis, the Ægyptian Dog, three inches and a half, six oz. four dr.

Bucephalus Alexandri Mamm. two inches and a quarter, three oz. six dr.

This borough has enjoyed many advantages and liberties by the charters of several monarchs. It appears that the Empress Maud granted the first, which was confirmed by her son, Henry the Second. King John, Henry the Third, and Edward

Edward the Third, greatly enlarged their privileges, and placed the burgesses upon an equality with the citizens of Winchester, and the burgesses of Oxford.

These were further confirmed, with some additions, by Richard the Second, Henries the Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth, Edward the Fourth, Henry the Eighth, Edward the Sixth, and Queen Elizabeth, as appears by the charter of the latter, which ratifies all the preceding. This is further continued by King James, wherein provision is made for the more orderly election of the mayor, burgesses, and other officers ; for mulcting recusants, and punishing mal-administration ; for the enlargement of the town, and the better government of the inhabitants ; particularly for holding a court of record every Friday, if they think fit, &c. All these rights, immunities, and claims were continued, and finally confirmed, by the charter of King Charles the First, whereby the title and office of recorder were substituted in the place of town-clerk. According to this charter, the corporation consists of a mayor, recorder, ten magistrates, and twenty-four common council-men, who have the liberty of making what burgesses they please, all of whom have the privilege of voting for members of parliament, though there are seldom more than

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thirty voters. This town sent members to all the parliaments of Edward the First; but only made four returns in Edward the Second, viz. the first, eighth, ninth, and nineteenth. Since the fourth of Edward the Third, it has made regular returns.

The town is situated on elevated ground, consequently cannot enjoy the advantage of a river; a powerful argument against its having been a Roman station. It is a large and populous place, consisting of several streets, which are paved. The houses are mostly built with brick, and being erected at different periods, and by various landlords, are devoid of regularity; many of them bear evident appearance of antiquity. It has carried on a very considerable trade in broad-cloth, kerseymeres, &c. which was particularly promoted by Mr. Anstie, a gentleman whose writings and exertions in behalf of English wools, will ever reflect an honour on his name. There are two parish churches in the town, and a chapel of ease, situated on the Green; with four meeting houses; a Presbyterian, Baptist, Quakers, and Methodists. It is also ornamented with two halls, called the old and new; and in the centre of the town is a large open space, called the Market-place, which is abundantly supplied every Thursday with all kinds of corn, wool,

wool, cheese, cattle, &c. from the adjacent country.

The above-named Mr. Anstie, erected some very large premises for the purpose of carrying on the clothing trade to a considerable extent; these are now converted into a house of industry, where the poor are provided with board, lodging, and clothing. Here is also a large free-school for fifty boys, who are taught the first rudiments of education. The churches of St. John and St. James are large handsome structures; the former is much ornamented with monkish sculpture, and has some Saxon arches. The church-yards appertaining to both, are laid out with pleasant gravel walks, and ornamented with rows of trees, affording the inhabitants two or three agreeable promenades.

This town has given birth to some eminent men, among whom our old historian, *Richard of Devizes*, may rank the first. He wrote a history of the reign of Richard the First, and an epitome of British affairs; both of these he dedicated to Robert, Prior of Winchester.

Mr. *Joseph Allein* was also born here; he was eminent among the Presbyterians, and wrote several theological books; one of which has had a very extensive sale: it was entitled, "The true way to Happiness," &c.

Mr. *Lawrence*, a distinguished painter of the present day, was born at the Castle Inn in this town. The genius and talents of this celebrated artist have exalted him very high in the profession, which he has honoured by many clever and valuable productions.

About two miles north-east of the town, is *ROUNDWAY HILL*, on the summit of which is a considerable entrenchment. This is situated on the western extremity of the long range of chalk hills, which run nearly all through the middle of the county, from east to west. Mr. *Aubrey* gives the following measurement of it: On the south-side it is one hundred and forty paces long, on the north one hundred and sixty, on the west thirty-seven, and on the east one hundred and fifty. It has two entrances on the east, and one on the west. Mr. *Sutton*, who has a seat in the neighbourhood, has planted some clumps of firs on the brow of this hill.

A little farther north-east, and on the opposite side of *Wansdike*, is *Oldborough Castle*, which is evidently a Roman camp. About midway between these fortifications, in the valley at the source of two or three springs, is the village of *Heddington*, which appears to have been the *VERLUCIO* of *Antoninus*. If any other arguments were necessary, in addition to what I
have

have already stated at Warminster, it might be proved that many Roman antiquities have been found here; and I was informed, when last at Bowood, that some tessellated pavement had been discovered a few years back.

Oldborough, or Oldbury Castle, is a large camp thrown up in a squarish form, with double ditches. It is but slightly fortified on the north and west, where the steepness of the hill was a sufficient security. The other two sides are defended by a double vallum, having only one entrance towards the east.



SECT. XXV.

NEW PARK,

A SEAT of James Sutton, Esq. is about one mile from Devizes, to describe which I shall avail myself of an extract from Mr. Repton's Red Book *, wherein he has particularized the beauties and "capabilities" of this place. "All the materials of natural landscape seem to be collected, if not actually displayed, within the pale of this beautiful park. It presents every possible variety of shape in the ground, from the chearful and extended plain, to the steep hill and abrupt precipice. The surface is every

* Mr. Repton is a landscape gardener of considerable celebrity. When this gentleman is consulted about the improvement and embellishments of parks, &c. he surveys the whole, writes a description of the same, and illustrates his precepts by ingenious and very clever drawings, representing the scenes as they are, and what their effects would be, if altered according to his directions. When finished, he binds it in red morocco, and leaves it with the proprietor of the estate. This he calls "*The Red Book.*"

where

where enriched by wood of various growth and species, either collected in ample masses, or lightly scattered in groups and single trees. Such are the natural advantages of the fore ground, to which must be added the richest prospects of distant country; and while Nature has been thus bountiful, Art has also lent assistance, under the direction of Mr. James Wyatt, to decorate the scene with a building of the most elegant form. The house at New Park is a lasting monument of the contrivance and good taste of that ingenious architect." I was informed that there are a few good paintings at New Park, by Moreland, &c. but not having seen them, I shall forbear saying any thing more on the subject.

STOKE PARK,

The seat of Joshua Smith, Esq. one of the representatives for the borough of Devizes, is situated about seven miles south-west of that town. This estate, together with that of Edington, where formerly stood an old family mansion of the Dukes of Bolton, were purchased by the present possessor, of Peter Delme, Esq. about the year 1780; since which period, the domain of Stoke has been so completely altered and improved, that it scarcely retains a trait of its original character. Every thing is new, ex-

cept the venerable tenants of the park—the lofty trees—these still remain to decorate the scene, and confer dignity and picturesque beauty to the landscape. The house, the pleasure-grounds, with extensive plantations, and an ornamental village, have all sprung into existence, and acquired beauty and utility, under the present proprietor. Some few particulars of each, with an occasional reflection, will be found in the following lines: The old house at Stoke Park, which was built close on the edge of a small stream at the foot of the hill, was taken down, and a new one erected on an eminence. This is built of fine white free-stone, and was completed from the designs of George Stewart, Esq. and for external neatness, and internal convenience and comfort, is a monument of praise to the talents of its architect. It was begun in 1786, and finished in five years. The house and offices extend from east to west three hundred and fifty-six feet in front; in the centre of which is a Doric colonnade, which opens into a very handsome hall, forty feet in length by thirty-two feet in breadth. It is ornamented with a screen of six fluted Corinthian columns, and communicates to the drawing-room, dining-room, library, &c. The first of these apartments is thirty feet by twenty-four, and is ornamented with
several

several pictures, copied from the most celebrated masters. Two large mirrors in this apartment, being placed directly opposite to each other, present a kind of optical delusion to the spectator who stands in the centre.

The dining-room to the east, is thirty-six feet by twenty-four, which communicates with the library facing the north. This elegant and interesting apartment is forty feet in length by twenty-six feet in width, and contains an invaluable assemblage of choice books, the chief part of which are in the most handsome bindings. West of this is the breakfast-room, measuring twenty-six feet by twenty-four. This apartment is ornamented with a large landscape by Louthembourg, whose bold, spirited, and grand compositions, cannot fail to arrest the attention of every admirer of the picturesque, and the sublime in painting.

These, and a dressing-room, twenty-four feet by sixteen, constitute the ground suite of apartments, all of which are sixteen feet in height.

The first floor contains several bed-chambers and dressing-rooms, to which the access is through a gallery, remarkable for the singularity and beauty of its architecture; over this are many good rooms in the attic, and the offices are proportionably numerous and well distributed.

The

The north front commands a view, not only of its own grounds and plantations, but also a beautiful expanse of country, in which the village of Seend forms a pleasing and conspicuous feature.

A ridge of Salisbury Plain, opposite the south front, terminates in an abrupt manner within half a mile of the house. The sides and summit of this hill have been thickly planted with wood, which, as it advances in growth, will give the seat an additional beauty.

The turnpike road from Devizes to Westbury, passes within a hundred yards of the front of the house; but being hollowed out of the sand to a considerable depth, it is not to be seen from the windows; nor is it in the least incommodious to the appearance or effect of the lawn.

The view accompanying this description, was taken in 1798 from the opposite side of the road, where this sandy broken bank makes a good and bold fore-ground.

The park abounds with many fine large elm trees, and is enriched with a sheet of water. This rises under the ridge of Salisbury Plain, just mentioned. After forming seven different cascades in its progress, it is collected into a lake of considerable dimensions.

In

The north front commands a view, not only of its own grounds and plantations, but also a beautiful expanse of country, in which the village of Seend forms a pleasing and conspicuous feature.

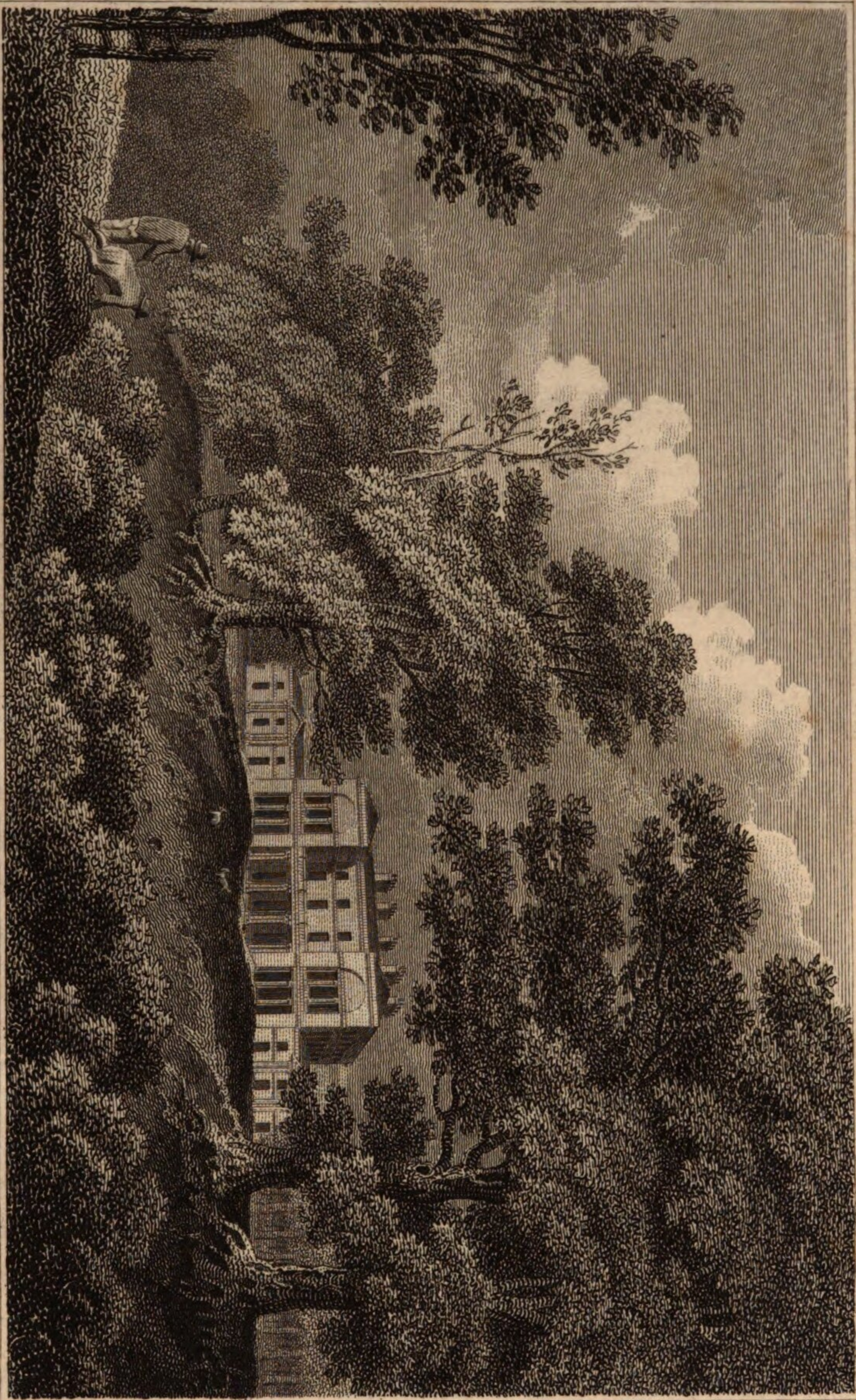
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The river, which derives its name from Westbury, passes within a hundred yards of the front of the house: not being hollowed out of the land to a considerable depth, it is not to be seen from the windows, and is in the least inconvenient to the appearance or effect of the lawn.

The view accompanying this description, was taken in 1788 from the opposite side of the road, where the sandy broken bank makes a good and bold view ground.

The park abounds with many fine large elm trees, and is enriched with a sheet of water. This reservoir, the ridge of Salisbury Plain, just mentioned. After forming seven different cascades in its progress, it is collected into a lake of considerable dimensions.

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B. Wilson del.

STOKE PARK.

London, Published, &c. by Verner & Wood, Printers, for the Proprietors of the Illustrations.

W. J. Smith sculp.

In visiting the pleasure-ground, we are conducted over the above hollow-way by an arch that admits waggon, carts, &c. to pass under it.

This spot of beautifully decorated ground, abounds with a choice collection of botanical plants, and is pleasingly diversified with a variety of indigenous and exotic trees and shrubs. It is situated in a secluded dingle, through the centre of which runs the murmuring stream.

Before I leave this neighbourhood, I shall say a few words on the village of Stoke, which has greatly improved, or rather has grown, under the fostering influence of Mr. Smith. The poor villager's humble cottage was formerly devoid of comfort, the houses being situated in a narrow valley, subjected to the inundations of every trifling flood. This has been remedied by the proprietor, and a comfortable habitation has been provided for the peasant and his family, with a sufficiency of garden-ground to supply them with vegetables.

I feel considerable pleasure in relating these instances of benevolent condescension to the wants and distresses of the poor; but the pleasure would be heightened into rapture, if any encomiums of mine could shame the penurious, or the inconsiderate, to similar actions.

The

The poor inhabitants of country villages are peculiarly, and often miserably situated. The mandates of the 'Squire are to them positive laws ; and it is in his power to make them comparatively happy. The distressed daily labourer, who works hard for the common necessities of life, is more an object of commiseration and relief, than the clamorous vagrant. It is the duty of every landlord to investigate the hardships which his suffering tenants endure, and to supply their wants in proportion to his ability ; and this, I am happy to say is the mode of conduct pursued at Stoke.

While on this subject, I cannot resist the temptation of quoting a little more from Mr. Davis *, whose philanthropic arguments in favour of the poor, cannot be too widely disseminated.

“ It being allowed that manual labour is, and always will be, necessary for the cultivation of land, it follows that houses for the habitation of those who are to perform that labour are indispensable. To preserve the health and strength of these *poor* but *necessary* fellow-creatures, is, therefore, not only the duty but the interest of

* From letters and papers of the Bath and West of England Society, vol. vii. p. 294.

the landholders. Men of feeling will endeavour to do this from *principle*; men without feeling," (for such men there are,) will find it their *interest* to do it. The first step towards this necessary purpose, is that of providing proper habitations for them. Humanity shudders at the idea of an industrious labourer, with a wife, and perhaps five or six children, being *obliged* to live, or rather *exist*, in a wretched, damp, gloomy room, of ten or twelve feet square, and that room without a floor; but common decency must revolt at considering that over this wretched apartment there is only *one* chamber," (sometimes not *one*) "to hold all the miserable beds of this miserable family. And yet instances of this kind, (to our shame be it spoken) occur in every country village. How can we expect our labourers, or their families, to be healthy; or that their daughters, from whom we are to take our future female domestics, should be *cleanly*, *modest*, or even *decent*, in such wretched habitations?" This picture is *very gloomy*, but very true, as far as it is finished; but I could put in some touches, and introduce a few additional figures, which were copied from life, among the cottagers of Salisbury Plain, that would render the picture too painful for sensibility to contemplate. Let us hope that the wisdom and prudence
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of the opulent will provide a speedy remedy for the complaints of the suffering peasantry.

A little to the west of this village, is Eddington, anciently Æthendune, particularly distinguished in the annals of history from having been the place where Alfred obtained a signal victory over the Danes. These marauding invaders, by their superior numbers and repeated successes, had dispersed the Saxons, and forced the great and good King Alfred to seek security and subsistence in the cottage of a neatherd; where, tradition informs us, he provoked the reprehension of his hostess, by neglecting the trust that was reposed in him. The simple housewife, not knowing the quality of her guest, had requested him to take care of some cakes that were toasting, but the Monarch's mind was too deeply engaged in reflection, to observe the cookery; the cakes were burnt, and the King reprimanded. Whilst in this retirement, he often made excursions in disguise, to watch the enemy's motions, and observe their plans. Finding their vigilance relax, he secretly summoned his nobility, and having collected a considerable force in the vicinity of *Selwood*, sallied upon the unsuspecting Danes at *Eddington*. The surprise and terror that prevailed through their camp, and the energy and force of the Saxons, soon decided the

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contest in favour of the latter. The former were completely defeated, only a few fled to a neighbouring castle, (Bratton) where they held out a siege of fourteen days, when they were forced to surrender at discretion. Alfred granted them better terms than they could expect, and far better than they deserved.

He agreed to give up the whole kingdom of the East Angles to such as would embrace the Christian religion, on condition that they would oblige the rest of their countrymen to quit the island, and prevent any others from landing.

In this village William de Edington, Bishop of Winchester, was born, and founded here a college of secular canons, of the order of St. Augustine, which he called Bonhommes, at the desire of Edward the Black Prince. He laid the foundation in 1352; when finished, it was consecrated by Robert Wyvil, then Bishop of Sarum. "Its revenues amounted, at the dissolution, to between four and five hundred pounds a year." From these documents it appears, that Eddington was formerly a place of considerable consequence, though it is now divested of all its pomp, and reduced to a village. The mansion-house, which I have already noticed as belonging to the Duke of Bolton, is now levelled to the ground; the principal part of
the

the materials were used in constructing the new mansion at Stoke. The church, which was also founded by Bishop Edington in 1347, still remains, and is a fine ancient structure, built in the form of a cathedral, and decorated with many of the sculptural ornaments so prevalent in that age.

About two miles south-west of this village, is *Bratton Castle*, the camp where the Danes took shelter after their defeat at Eddington. It is situated on the brow of a high hill, commanding a very extensive tract of country, and is encompassed with a double ditch. It has two entrances, one on the south-east from the plain, another on the north-west from Eddington, both guarded by a redoubt. It is formed of an oblong shape, and is about three hundred and thirty-five paces from east to west, and about two hundred from north to south. Near the middle is a large oblong barrow, about sixty paces in length. On the south-west side of this hill is a curious monument, which has excited some difference of opinion among the *zealous* antiquaries. Mr. Wise observes, that having examined this object, he must declare that the fabric is *modern*, and that the inhabitants of Westbury, *who made it*, and instituted a revel, or festival thereon, will inform “them as much; it having been
wrought

wrought within the memory of *persons now living*, or but very lately dead." Now let us attend to Mr. Gough's description and arguments: "On the south-west face of the hill," (Bratton) "is a most curious monument, unnoticed by Bishop Gibson; a white horse, in a walking attitude, cut out of the chalk, fifty-four feet high from his toe to his chest, and to the tip of his ear near one hundred feet high, and from ear to tail one hundred feet long, an *undoubted memorial* of this important victory," (battle of Eddington) "and like that by which Alfred commemorated his first great victory in Berkshire, eight years before. The whole of this figure is hollowed out of the chalk, and not marked with outlines so hollowed, as Mr. Wise seems to insinuate the Berkshire horse is. I am surprised this learned investigator of these kind of monuments among us, should doubt the antiquity of this horse, which so exactly corresponds with the other both in execution and intention, and represent it as of modern make, within memory. As I could find no such tradition when I surveyed it in 1772, he must have been misled, to confound the *scouring*, as they call it, with the original making." Although I cannot myself speak positively as to the *time* of cutting out the above mentioned disputed monument, yet I know that two others

in this county are *modern productions*; one of which, at Cherill Hill, has been made since my remembrance.

WESTBURY,

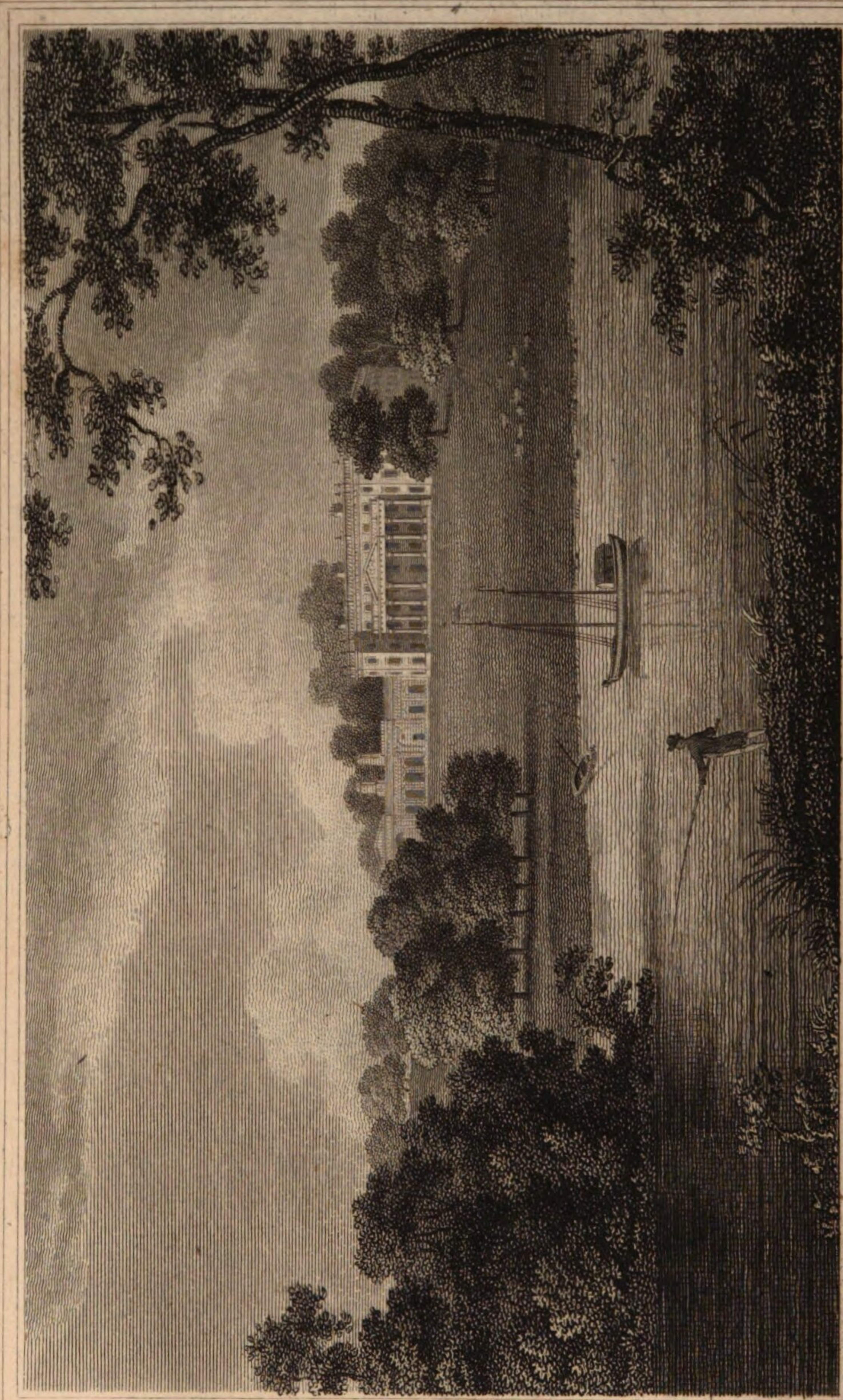
Above alluded to, is an ancient borough town, and is supposed to have acquired its name from being situated in the western part of this county. This town gives name to the hundred in which it stands. Dr. Gale, in his comment on Antoninus, places the Verlucio at this place; but that he was mistaken in his supposition, will be evident from the arguments adduced in the preceding pages, and by comparing the situation and circumstances together. “The name of Westbury,” says Mr. Gough, “is purely *Saxon*, derived probably from its being one of the considerable towns in the West, or from its situation west from a burgh, or Roman station; as they called Selwood Forest, in its neighbourhood, the *Western Wood*, by way of eminence. In Westbury church is a monument for Sir James Ley, Lord Ley, of Ley, in the county of Devon, Lord Chief Justice of Ireland and England, and created by Charles the First, Earl of Marlborough, which title was held by his only son, and became extinct in his brother, in 1680.” The borough of Westbury was originally chartered

tered by King Edward the First, and governed by a mayor, twelve capital burgesses, and a recorder. It sends two members to parliament, who are returned by the mayor, and elected by about twenty-four voters. There does not appear to have been any members returned for this borough before the twenty-seventh of Henry the Sixth, who is said to have incorporated it. A tradition prevails that this town formerly enjoyed as great privileges as the city of Bristol. The right of election in this borough is of a particular nature, being in every tenant of any burgage-tenement in fee, for lives, or ninety-nine years, determinable on lives, or by copy of court-roll, paying a burgage-rent of four-pence, or two-pence yearly, being resident within the said borough, and not begging alms. There are three kinds of burgage-holds, viz. freehold, copyhold, and leasehold. In some places the proprietor of the burgage-hold has a right to vote; in others it is in the tenant, or occupier of such a tenure. A court-leet is held here by the mayor for the borough, and one in May for the hundred of Westbury, by the Lord of the hundred, the Earl of Abingdon. The whole of the hundred of Westbury is in one parish, but there are two chapels of ease, one at Bratton, and one at Dilton. The church is a large handsome edifice,

erected at the beginning of the thirteenth century. The principal trade carried on here is clothing, which is conducted to a very considerable extent.

Westbury is a vicarage, and goes on the death of its vicar to the senior bachelor in Winchester college. It has a market on Friday, and three annual fairs.





Britton del.

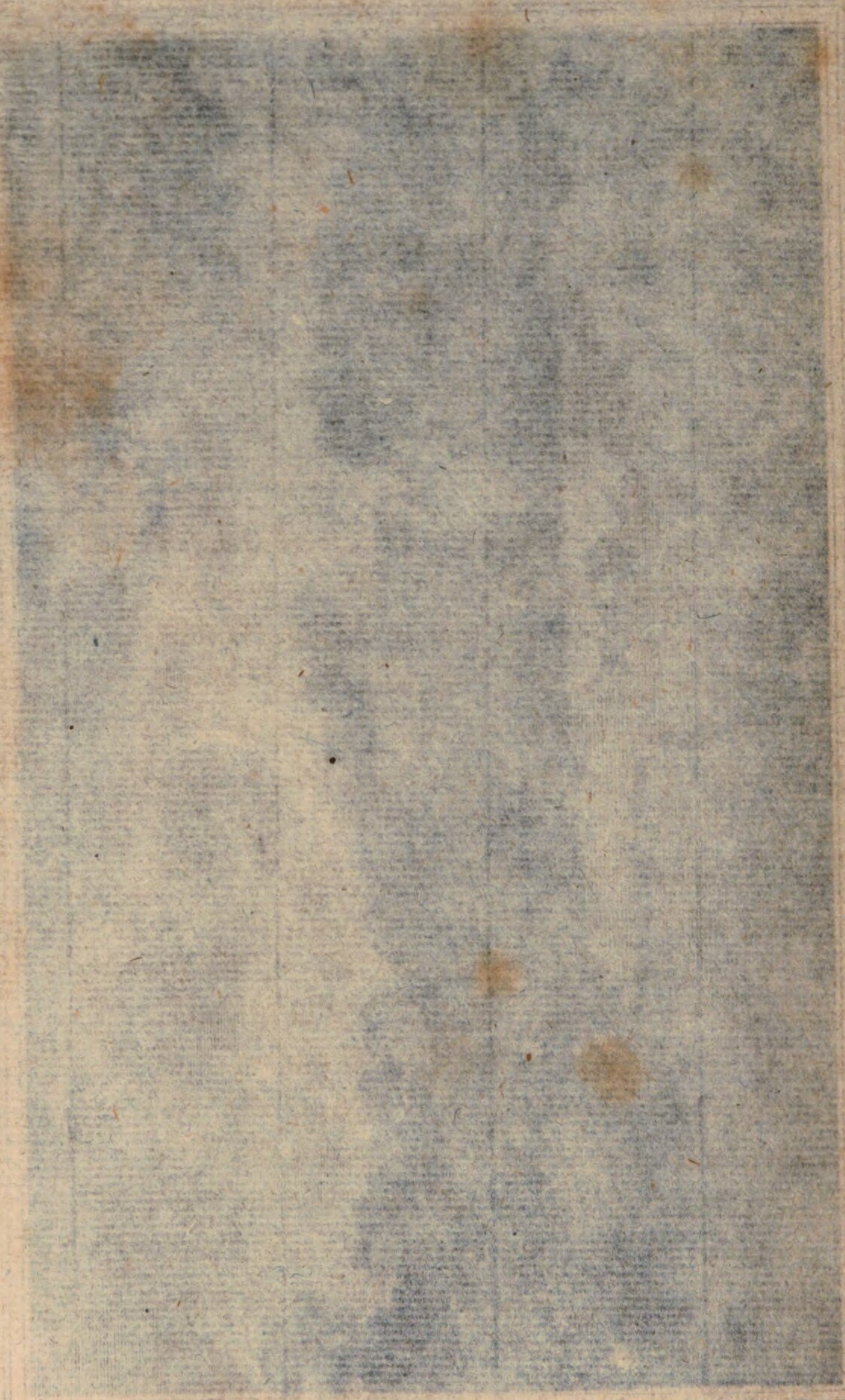
Storer Sculp.

BOWOOD.

London: Published April 1. 1801 by Verner & Wood, Printers, for the Beauties of Wiltshire.

THE *Manor House* is situated in a fine spot of land, where the garden is a perfect fusion of wood and lawn. The spreads its arms round the mansion, giving birth to the most interesting prospects.

The park contains nine lakes, which is distinguished by a particular effect that destroys the dullness and monotony of the landscape. The lakes are nearly square, and a belt of grass surrounds them. But this, instead of covering the surface, the appearance of firmness, rather increases its beauty, from the variety of colors assumed by the trees that surround it, and the different walks they respectively occupy. This stream, as its name seems to indicate, abounds with wood. Here the venerable oak flourishes in majestic grandeur.



ROMAN

Printed and Published by W. H. Smith, at the British Museum, London.

British Museum

SECT. XXVI.

BOWOOD,

THE seat of the Marquis of Lansdown; is situated in a most pleasant part of the county, where the proximity of undulating hills, the profusion of woods, and the broad lake, which spreads its liquid bosom in the vicinity of the mansion, gives birth to many beautiful and interesting prospects.

The park contains nine vallies, each of which is distinguished by a particular feature that destroys the monotony and tameness which uniformity of size too often generates. The grounds are nearly surrounded with a belt of plantation; but this, instead of giving the outline the appearance of formality, rather increases its beauty, from the variety of colour assumed by the trees that compose it, and the different widths they respectively occupy. This domain, as its name seems to indicate, abounds with wood. Here the venerable oak flourishes in majestic grandeur,

and gives a richness and interest to the contiguous scenery, which the admirer of Nature's beauties cannot contemplate without those feelings of delight that border upon rapture. The principal entrance to the park is from the town of Calne, which is about two miles distant from the house.

In my approach to Bowood, I was confirmed in an opinion previously conceived, that the mansion, and home character of a place, should never be developed to the eye at too great a distance. If we catch a glimpse through a protracted vista, or over a lengthened expanse of water, (as at Bowood) and it is again secluded from our view, it generally excites the most gratifying sensations of anticipated pleasure; but if led to the mansion by a strait, or even circuitous walk, which keeps it in view from its first appearance, the pleasure of expectation is destroyed, and every step increases our indifference.

Another circumstance that struck me with peculiar force on entering the park, was the wildness and picturesque* appearance of the scenery
around

* Wherever I use the word *picturesque*, I must intreat my readers not to consider it as a term of vague or indefinite meaning; for I shall not, with Mr. Gilpin, apply it *indiscriminately*. The ingenious Mr. Price has, in my opinion, established

around the bridge; which, by giving a strong contrast to the smooth-shorn lawn contiguous to the house, enables the discriminating eye to appreciate the peculiar effects which result from the union of the picturesque with the beautiful.

Bowood was part of the royal and extensive forest called Pewisham, which extended from Chippenham nearly to Devizes, and from Laycock to Calne; the river Avon being its limit north and west. In this forest, it is said, that King James the First amused himself and his courtiers by hunting the timid deer. After his death, it was divided, and one half granted to the ancestors of Lord Audley, the other to the Careys, a Roman catholic family of Devonshire; the latter part was afterwards purchased by Mr. Montague, of Lackam.

During the Protectorship of Oliver Cromwell, Bowood was laid open. A traditional report still prevails in this part, that the parliamentary

published its true import; and in the sense only which his name has sanctioned, I shall hereafter use it. The names of Price and Knight should ever be combined, when discoursing on this subject. They are both men of learning, talents, and taste, and have strenuously endeavoured to establish the true criterion of the *picturesque*, not only in their *elegant* and *energetic* writings, but also in the exemplification of the same principles, at their respective seats of Foxley and Downton, in Herefordshire.

commissioners were much embarrassed to convey the deer across Lockshill Heath, from Bowood to Spy Park ; and that the clothiers of the neighbourhood constructed a skirted road of broad cloth between those places, and thereby effected their removal.

Bowood was finally granted to Sir Orlando Bridgeman, Baronet, one of the favourites of Charles the Second, who dying insolvent, it was purchased of his creditors by the late Earl of Shelburne, from whom it descended to the present Marquis, as lawful heir.

The mansion-house, is a large and grand pile of building, situated near the north-east side of the park, on a knoll of ground which slopes gently to the lake.

The principal front, looking to the south, commands a rich prospect of diversified and pleasing scenery. Here the lake, presenting its broad expanse of waters, reflects and harmonizes the general features of the landscape. It is divided into two branches ; one retiring behind a swell of the lawn ; the other, lengthening itself to a considerable distance, is secluded from the sight by interposing woods. The view is terminated by a range of Marlborough Downs and Roundway Hill.

This

This front is adorned with a massive portico, supported by ten Doric columns, with entablatures of the same order, from which arises a pediment decorated with the family arms.

The entrance hall, or vestibule, is handsome, though not large ; it is paved with tessellated marble, and ornamented with a few statues.

The paintings at Bowood are not very numerous, the Marquis having his principal collection at his town-house, in Berkley Square. I shall arrange them under three distinct heads ; the first comprising landscapes of modern masters of established reputation ; the second, originals, and copies of celebrated ancient masters ; the third, original portraits.

Of the first class, the most worthy of notice are these :

A Sea Beach, distant Rocks, &c. by Barrett ; with Figures, and Italian Horses, by Gilpin.

A peculiar blue tone, pervades this painting ; but the harmony of colouring, and aerial perspective, are well executed. The contour and relief of the horses are excellent ; full of animation, they appear to burst from the canvas.

A Sea Piece, by N. Pocock.

This picture represents Captain Jones, of the Chesterfield Packet, endeavouring to save the crew of an Indiaman from being shipwrecked.

It

It commands our admiration, not only from its prominent merit as a painting, but also for the humane action it is intended to commemorate. The boisterous surge and undulating wave, are finely and naturally coloured.

A Landscape, with figures, by Gainsborough.

Group of Horses—Carriers going up a winding Lane, and entering a woody Thicket—Cows in Sedgy Water, &c. In commending this piece, I conceive it will not be an unjust panegyric to say, that it is Nature in miniature.

Landscape, representing Sun-set, by Deane.

Landscape, with figures, by Wilson.

“In storms sublime, the daring WILSON soars,
And on the blasted oak, his mimic lightning pours;
Apollo triumphs in the flaming skies,
And classic beauties in his scenes arise.” HAYLEY.

This painting has been engraved by W. Wollet, and entitled, Apollo and the Seasons.

Three of these pieces were painted at the request of the Marquis, with a particular injunction that each artist would exert himself to produce his *chef d'œuvre*, as they were intended to lay the *foundation of a school of British landscapes*, the want of which has been often lamented. The Marquis a few years since devised a plan for establishing one, but it was never carried into execution. Had it been properly encouraged, it would

would have proved a national honour, and reflected a lasting encomium on the founder.

In the second class we may include,

Two Landscapes, by Zuccarelli.

A large ditto, with a View of the Grand Waterfall at Tivoli, by Juliers.

Two ditto, from Claude, by Crone.

These copies possess much of the delicacy and harmony of the originals.

The portraits are numerous; consisting of Ministers, Generals, Doctors, &c. among which are the following:

Oliver Cromwell, on leaf gold; said to be by Walker, the Protector's favourite artist.

This was purchased of the King's librarian.

Sir Isaac Newton, when a boy—The late patriotic Earl of Chatham—Dean Swift—Sir William Petty—Erasmus—Doctors Harvey, Mead, Sydenham, &c.

The inside of this house is very commodious. The basement story is divided into three suites of apartments; the principal being reserved for visitors, of whom his Lordship entertains a great number during his residence at this delightful abode.

The second suite contains the apartments of the Marquis, steward's rooms, offices, &c. These are closely united to the kitchen and pleasure-gardens.

The

The third comprises a large and well-filled library, opening to the green-house, with a parlour, offices, &c. the whole forming a wing of three hundred feet in length.

This mansion, with its united appendages, appears such a mass of buildings, that some people have mistaken it for a small town; an instance of this occurred recently, when a countryman asked at the porter's lodge, at which of "themmen housen lived the Marquis of Lansdown?"

Leaving the house, I proceeded through the gardens to the pleasure-grounds, where

"Beauty reigns in all her magic charms."

These grounds are very extensive, comprising an area of about seventy acres. They furnish constant employment to twenty poor labourers, whose business is to keep them in that neat and elegant state which they are always seen.

In this terrestrial elysium, *Nature* has liberally dispensed her favours, which her handmaid *Art*, under the dominion of taste, has arranged and displayed in the most appropriate and becoming manner.

What more particularly distinguishes these pleasure-grounds from the generality of places of the same name, is the profusion of large, indigenous, and exotic trees, with which they
abound,

abound, at once calculated to protect the house from the north winds, afford a pleasant umbrageous shelter from the scorching sun, and clothe every division of this charming spot with the foliaceous mantle of Nature.

In these grounds, no inanimate leaden statues, senseless busts, nor ostentatiously unmeaning obelisks, obtrude themselves on the eye of the wandering visitant; the Marquis judiciously observed, “that those littlenesses of workmanship should never be introduced where the beauty and variety of the scenery are in themselves sufficient to excite admiration.”

At the bottom of these grounds is a very fine artificial cascade, where the water falls thirty feet perpendicular, and presents a scene *truly picturesque* and grand.

The generality of *made* cascades, are too tame and *uninterestingly regular*. The tasteless step-like disposition of the stones, displease the eye, and disgust the fancy. There are few ornaments more difficult to execute properly; and no one but a landscape-painter, or a person conversant in that art, should attempt it.

The cascade at Bowood* was designed by a man of real taste; Mr. Hamilton, of Pains

* The vignette to this volume (from a sketch of Mr. Du Barry) is intended to convey some idea of this scene.

Hill, who took a picture of N. Poussin's for his model. Mr. Josiah Lane, as I have already mentioned, assisted in the formation of this stupendous work ; but it was *finished* under the direction of the present Marquis.

Thus completed, and daily improving in wildness and picturesque effect, it stands a flattering monument of the taste and judgment of all who were concerned in its construction.

The water gushes out of several excavations in the rock ; and the principal sheet, after falling a few yards, dashes against some projecting masses of stone, and flies off in a cloud of white spray. The dashing and roar of the waters, the jumbled confusion of the rocks, the wildness and seclusion of the place, and the various subterranean passages under the head of the river, conspire to render it a scene strikingly pleasing to every man of taste ; but more peculiarly so to the painter and admirer of the picturesque ; for here he may indulge himself in the reveries of fancy, and by a small effort of imagination, may think himself among the wild waterfalls of North Wales, or the thundering cataracts of Switzerland.

This cascade is produced by the overflowing water of the lake ; in constructing which, the latter was made to expand into its present consequence.

sequence. By raising a high embanked head, the waters have been thrown out of the original channel, and caused to cover an extent of about thirty acres. Few artificial lakes have been made with less difficulty, and few possess more natural beauties. Its extent gives it grandeur ; and the ornamental woods, broken banks, and indeterminable boundaries, render it peculiarly pleasing and interesting to the admirer of Nature. Mr. Price, in his learned Essays on the Picturesque, has the following observations on this subject, which are peculiarly applicable to the lake at Bowood : “ Artificial pieces of water must be formed by means of a head, or digging, or of both. The most beautiful (whatever be their size) will of course be those which are formed without marks of digging, and where the surrounding ground is of a varied character, and is indented with bays and inlets, variously accompanied. If such a bason be ready to receive an artificial lake, the improver has little difficulty about the form of his banks ; for the water, by insinuating itself into every creek and bay, by winding round each promontory under the projecting boughs, and the steep broken ground, by lying against the soft verdure, and the stony or gravelly beech, will mark all the characters of the shore, as it will likewise mark

its different heights, by a comparison with its own level."

Near the Aviary is a remarkable echo, which repeats every word three or four times; and every tone and inflection of the voice is distinctly heard.

On a bank of gently rising ground, about a mile west from the house, is the mausoleum, a very neat structure, erected by the Earl of Shelburne; it is embosomed in a thick solemn wood, and contains a marble tomb, with this inscription:

TO THE MEMORY OF
JOHN PETTY, EARL OF SHELBURNE,
VISCOUNT FITZMAURICE, BARON OF DUNKERTON,
IN IRELAND,
AND ONE OF THE LORDS OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL,
BARON WYCOMB, OF CHIPPING WYCOMB, IN
GREAT BRITAIN.

HE WAS THE SON OF
THOMAS FITZMAURICE, EARL OF KERRY,
TO WHOM THE TITLES OF KERRY AND LIXNAW
HAD LINEALLY DESCENDED
THROUGH FOUR AND TWENTY GENERATIONS;
AND OF ANN, THE ONLY DAUGHTER OF
SIR WILLIAM PETTY,
HIS LADY, BARONESS OF SHELBURNE.
A MAN, WHOM EMINENT FACULTIES OF MIND
NEVER MADE AMBITIOUS;

WHOM

WHOM ABUNDANT AFFLUENCE OF FORTUNE
NEVER MADE DISSOLUTE;
WHOSE EXTENSIVE INFLUENCE OF POWER
NEVER MADE ARROGANT;
WHO LIVED WITH NO OTHER ENDEAVOUR THAN
TO ADVANCE THE HAPPINESS OF OTHERS
BY KINDNESS AND CHARITY,
AND IMPROVE THEIR SENTIMENTS BY GOOD
EXAMPLE;
WHO DIED WITH NO WISH TO BE REMEMBERED
BUT AS A MAN OF WORTH,
AND A CHRISTIAN OF SINCERITY.
HE DEPARTED THIS LIFE THE 10TH OF MAY, 1761,
AGED 55;
LEAVING TWO SONS,
WILLIAM, NOW EARL OF SHELBURNE,
AND THOMAS FITZMAURICE.

I cannot enter into a detailed description of each respective scene at Bowood, but shall conclude with a few characterising remarks of a general nature.

The inequality of ground about the house, the distant views of the Marlborough Downs, the White Horse on Cherill Hills, the town of Calne, and the various other objects which are seen in a walk round the gardens, are all calculated to give that degree of variety and beauty which cannot fail to awaken the attention, and please the fancy.

The woods and plantations are very extensive; they form, particularly to the west and south-west, a bold and elegant boundary, through which several devious paths convey us over gurgling rills to scenes of sequestered solitude, and into the umbrageous recesses of solemn groves.

Many springs of petrifying water ooze from the rocks in the eastern division of the park, and, after gently meandering through the adjacent grounds, lose themselves in the congregated lake.

The scenery at Bowood may be ranked under each of the three distinguishing classes into which the agreeable objects of Nature have been divided: the sublime, the picturesque, and the beautiful.

The latter may be seen in the lawn and pleasure-grounds; the picturesque, in the broad lake, and its artless, wild, and broken accompaniments; the sublime, in the extensive prospects, the rich woods, and the massive rock, worn into furrows by the rush of falling waters. Here the *minutiae* of landscape is never perceptible; it is absorbed in the striking grandeur of the surrounding scenery.

In answer to some of my enquiries, while at Bowood, I learnt, with considerable satisfaction, that the patriotic Marquis had commenced the
execution

execution of a design, which must ensure him the praise of posterity:—the reducing of all the LARGE farms on his estates, at the expiration of the leases!—May such an example have its desired influence with other landholders; the effects will be the salvation of the country.

When opulence evinces a promptitude to ameliorate the hardships of suffering humanity, we contemplate the wealthy with sentiments of veneration and esteem; when it looks beyond the present moment, and provides a remedy for contingent misfortunes, we are not contented to repay the provident agent with silent respect, but are desirous of applauding publicly, that the world may be acquainted with his merits, and join in the note of approval.

During my residence in this part of the county, I heard many praise-worthy anecdotes of the Marquis of Lansdown, on the subject of game-laws, &c. yet I shall forbear to repeat them, as the relation might lead me into a province which I have no wish to visit—that of controversial politics.

SECT. XXVII.

CALNE,

THE principal town in the hundred of that name; is situated in the great western road from London to Bath and Bristol, on the banks of a small river. It is an ancient town, and was endowed with peculiar privileges; particularly that of never having gelded, or payed taxes, “so that it is not known (says Domesday) how many hides are therein.” It is supposed to have arisen from the ruins of a Roman colony on the other side of the river Calne, near Studley, where Roman coins, and other relics of that nation, have frequently been discovered.

The kings of the West Saxons had a palace here; and, from the names of Castle-street, and Castle-field, it is generally imagined that a castle reared its massive walls in the neighbourhood of the town. Here was also an hospital of Black Canons, dedicated to St. John, and valued, at the

the dissolution, at two pounds two shillings and eight-pence per annum*.

Calne is an ancient borough by prescription, and sends two members to parliament, who are elected by fifteen voters; the first return was in the reign of Edward the First. The corporation consists of two guild stewards, who are chosen annually, and an unlimited number of burgesses.

Previous to February 25, 1723, the privilege of election was vested in all the inhabitants having right of common; but it was then determined, that the power of choosing members resided with the ancient burgesses only; and that the right of returning members was in the guild stewards.

The manor, prebend, and parsonage of Calne, are held by leases for several lives, from the dean, chapter, and treasurer of Sarum.

During the contention in the reign of King Edward the Martyr, between the monks and the secular priests, respecting the celibacy of the

* The value of the lands belonging to religious houses is mostly under-rated; the valuation being generally made by those who had an interest in the concealment of their true revenue. Intending to solicit the tyrannic Henry to bestow them either on themselves or friends, they scarcely ever rated the income at more than half the amount of the real sum.

clergy, and the right of the monks to hold benefices, a great synod, or convocation, was held here, for the purpose of concluding the controversy which had commenced in the former synods at Winchester, and Catlage, in Cambridge-shire. This being a question of considerable importance, from its involving a change in the whole ecclesiastical government of the kingdom, the principal nobility*, as well as the bishops and seculars, attended to hear it argued.

In the midst of the debate, when a Scotch bishop, named Beornhelm, was pleading very powerfully in favour of the priests, the timbers and frame-work of the assembly-room gave way, and the structure fell to the ground. Most of the secular priests were killed and buried beneath the ruins, as well as many other persons; and a considerable number were bruised and maimed. The seat of Dunstan, who was president of the synod, and the chief advocate for the monks, alone continued firm; a circumstance which, in that credulous age of superstition and ignorance, was construed into a miraculous declaration of the will of Heaven in their favour. The seculars in Dunstan's province

* Hume says, that Dunstan, on that day, had prevented the King from attending.

were every where turned out, and their places bestowed on the monks.

Henry of Huntingdon considers this event as a *denunciation* of the Almighty's vengeance against the nobility, who, the next year, betrayed and murdered their King!

In the dark ages of ignorance and superstition, every extraordinary circumstance was attributed to Omnipotence, or Satanic interference. Whatever was effected by the skill or cunning of man, which could not easily be comprehended by the hood-winked minds of the common people, was said to be performed by the agency of the Almighty, or by the art of the devil. In the present instance, we find that the action is attributed to the Divine wrath; but how irrational and absurd to suppose Omnipotence would inflict punishment on the innocent as well as the guilty. Indeed the conclusion seems to render the sagacity, and even common sense of the historian, questionable. Some of our writers have given a more natural reason for the falling of the assembly-room, than the interposition of Heaven, either to serve the monks or denounce vengeance; that Dunstan had previously caused the beams which supported it, to be sawn nearly asunder, at the same time taking care that his own seat should remain fixed and steady.

This is most likely to be the truth. The fiend-like mind of Dunstan was equal to the generation and execution of any project that tended to promote his purposes, however murderous and diabolical.

Calne has, of late years, very much increased in size and population. It contains nearly three thousand inhabitants, most of whom are employed in the manufacture of broad-cloth, serges, and various other articles of the clothing business. Here are three meeting-houses for the respective sects of Presbyterians, Anabaptists, and Quakers. The entrance from the London road is adorned with a row of neat free-stone houses, erected by the Marquis of Lansdown, in the room of some old ruinous buildings. These are let to the tenants at the *same low rents* as formerly.

The town has lately undergone many improvements ; yet further alterations are necessary ; for the public London road, leading from the bridge to the church, is very dangerous, being so narrow that two carriages can scarcely pass each other. The market-house has been repaired, under the patronage of the Marquis, and through the laudable exertions of Christopher Allsup, Esq.

The

The church is a large structure, dedicated to St. Mark, with an handsome square tower at the *east* end. The walls are ornamented with embrasures, and foliated pinnacles.

The town is plentifully supplied with water arising from two streams, one issuing from the foot of the hills near the village of Calston, the other from Cherill; these rivulets unite, and run through the centre of the town, giving motion to many fulling and grist-mills.

The free-school here was founded by John Bentley, Esq. of Richmond, in Surry. By his will, dated September 29th, 1660, he gave certain lands, called Frickett's Fields, adjoining to Lincoln's Inn, then worth about 500*l.* for the erection and maintenance of a free-school for ever in Calne. In 1737, the surviving trustees established the following regulations :

“ That the master shall teach thirty boys of the parish of Calne, to read, write, and cypher.

“ That he shall not receive any money or gratuity from the parents of the poor children, nor take more boys than the stated number.”

By the donations of Sir Francis Bridgman, Knight, certain exhibitions are established at Queen's College, Oxford, for the benefit of boys born in the county of Wilts, and educated in the free-school at Calne : “ The master to

keep a regular grammar-school, and teach seven boys the Latin and Greek tongues, and otherwise qualify them for the University."

About three miles east of Calne, on the side of the London road, is a monument, which not only attracts the notice of all travellers on this road, but also the observation of people over the north part of the county, and many parts of Gloucestershire and Somersetshire. This is the figure of a large WHITE HORSE, that was formed by paring off the turf on the side of the chalk hill. The horse is represented in a trotting position, and executed with a pretty correct outline. It was cut at the expence of Dr. Allsup, of Calne, about twenty years ago, and measures from the head to the tail about one hundred and fifty-seven feet. Mr. Robertson* confounds this object with the white horse I before described at Bratton Castle, and has quoted Mr. Gough's description of the latter, which he has erroneously applied to this of Cherill. This hill is part of the estate of Walter Henneage, Esq. who has a seat at about two miles distant, called Compton-House. It is a large, square, white building, one hundred and thirty feet by one

* In a work entitled, A Topographical Survey of the Great Road from London to Bath and Bristol, &c.

hundred and ten, erected on the side of a hill, which commands a very extensive view over North Wilts. From the front of the house, the town of Calne, the plantations of Bowood, and the Somerset hills, form conspicuous and interesting objects. The hill continues to rise behind the house, where it is covered with abundance of wood, which forms a kind of amphitheatrical back ground to the mansion.



SECT.

SECT. XXVIII.

CHIPPENHAM,

IS a town of considerable importance, not only on account of its great antiquity, but also from its increasing commerce, arising from the establishment of its extensive clothing manufactories, which, in conjunction with its favourable situation as a principal thoroughfare to the western cities, will, in all probability, soon cause it to assume a rank little inferior to any in the county.

It is said the name of this town originated in its market, for which it has been famous for many centuries. *Chyppanham*, in the Saxon language, signifies a *market-place*; thus *cyppan* means to buy; and *cypman*, a buyer, or merchant.

Chippenham was a principal town of the West Saxons, and apparently a favourite residence of their kings, whose palace was bequeathed by the great Alfred to his youngest daughter, *Ethelfleda*.

Not

Not a vestige of this building is remaining ; but it is generally supposed to have joined what is now called the Angel Inn ; a house *there* having always been distinguished by the name of the *palace* till within these seven years, when the whole building was entirely demolished to make room for a modern structure. That the whole of this building had stood from the time of Alfred, may admit of a doubt ; but that certain parts were of great antiquity, was evident ; among these may be reckoned the massy walls and heavy pointed arched porch ; from the latter, however, it may be inferred, that this building was of a date posterior to the time of Alfred, as the arch of the Saxons was generally circular ; but that they occasionally mixed the circular with the pointed arch in their buildings, is evident from those at Malmsbury, abbey &c.

But in addition to the massiveness of its walls and porch, some parts of the *timber-work* exhibited traces of being the performance of no recent period ; the floors, for instance, of hard oak, and very thick, were evidently executed without a saw. The mouldings, likewise, of one or two of the door-cases, and part of the wainscot, were not worked with a plane, but appear to have been chipped out with a chisel.

Of

Of the ancient history of this town, there is little upon record ; what seems most to be depended on is, that when Alfred with inferior forces had conquered the Danes, and made them sign a treaty by which they engaged to quit the kingdom, they treacherously possessed themselves of this place, and being strengthened by numbers of their countrymen, soon obliged the Saxons to disperse, and their monarch to seek security in disguise, and take refuge in the cottage of a neatherd, as I have already stated in the account of Eddington.

This town, in the time of Richard the Second, belonged to the Hungerford family ; but reverting to the crown on the death of Lord Hastings, was given by Richard the Third to John Howard, Duke of Norfolk. It was restored by Henry the Seventh to the heirs of its former possessors.

Chippenham is situated in a fine fertile valley, on the banks of the lower Avon, over which river there is a handsome free-stone bridge, of twenty-one arches. This has been much widened and neatly ornamented with balustrades and lamps.

It is to be remarked as an extraordinary circumstance, that the widening of this bridge, which took place about four years ago, was intended

tended to accommodate foot passengers with a *safe* path-way over it, which was certainly wanted; in the execution of the work, however, its design was forgotten, for the foot passenger is still left to make his way, amidst the horses and carriages, with what safety he can.

A traditional story informs us, that this bridge was first given by Queen Elizabeth; who, going through the town, was much pleased with the attention of the inhabitants, but equally incommoded in passing the ford at the entrance. This, however, is contradicted in the charter granted by Queen Mary, which proves that a bridge was then in existence, by her having given certain tracts of land for the purpose (among other things) of keeping it in repair.

The town is very populous, and of considerable extent; the principal street is about half a mile in length. Though the inhabitants have done much by their judicious alterations and improvements; yet, I trust, that they will not leave their patriotic plans half completed; the disfiguring cluster of old houses, the shabby town-hall, and the butchers' shambles, are discordant objects, and do not unite in harmony with the surrounding buildings, &c.

Near the centre of the town is the corn-market, in an open space, where the farmers used
to

to assemble with their saleable seeds, &c. In this area is erected a large useful town pump, which is surrounded with iron palisades; but this water being too hard for some domestic purposes, two or three persons are employed to convey the river water to different parts of the town, for which they receive one farthing a pail-full, or three-pence per barrel. The river Avon skirts three sides of the town; yet the centre and fourth side are deficient of water. Chippenham is rather peculiarly circumstanced with respect to this important article of human subsistence; for, though plentifully supplied in all its parts with spring water by means of wells, yet the generality of them produces what is called hard water; whereas, the well in which the town pump stands, being *very deep*, has the advantage of a superior kind of fluid, not quite so soft as the river water, nor so hard as those springs which flow in veins nearer the surface of the earth.

The church is a venerable handsome structure, supposed, by Camden, to have been founded by the Hungerfords, yet without sufficient evidence to warrant his supposition.

The arms of the family, it is true, are to be seen on the tower, and in different parts of the church, both within and without, particularly
on

on a portion of the walls called *Hungerford's Chapel*; yet the body of the fabrick is unquestionably of much older date than the time when the Hungerfords became Lords of Chippenham.

As Walter, Lord Hungerford, in the reign of Henry the Sixth, obtained the royal grant for founding a chantry within the parish church of this place, to pray for the good estate and souls of his sons, as well as for those of Henry the Fifth, Catherine his wife, &c. it seems probable, that at the time he erected the above-mentioned chapel, the whole building underwent a general repair; that considerable additions were made to the original remains; and that the tower, or at least the spire part of it, was then built.

The south side of the church is ornamented with battlements, and Gothic pinnacles. The inside is decorated with a very large handsome organ, and abounds with curious old monuments, among which the following are worthy of notice, from their peculiarity.

An old tomb, with this inscription:

Armiger hoc tumulo jacet hic generosus opaco

Andreas Baynton qui nominatus erat;

Quem genuit miles bene notis ubique Edwardus

Hujus erat heres nunc requiescit humo.

A. DNI. 1370.

“ In this dark tomb lies the worthy 'Squire, named Andrew Baynton: also, the well known Knight, his son and heir, Edward, here lies buried.”

The following inscription is on a flat stone in the wall on the north side of the church, near the pulpit, erected to the memory of a Mr. Ely, formerly an attorney of this town:

“ Neare to this place lyeth the body of John Ely, gent. sometimes burgesse of this towne, who died Nov. 25th, 1663.”

'Tis well I am stone, for to preserve his name,
Who was, if mortal may be, without blame;
In his religious, civil practice, just;
In his calling no traytor to his trust.
If this report consuming time shall weare
And wipe out,—search Heaven's Records, 'tis there.

There is also the following inscriptions in the chancel:

“ Neare unto this place lieth interred the body of Mr. Joseph Glare, the late vicar of this parish, and his two sons, which said vicar departed this life the 26th day of December, 1680.”

Stars fall, but in the grossness of our sight,
A good man dying, the world doth lose a light.
While we lament our loss such lights put out,
The Heavens triumph above, the angels shout.
If virtue itself with virtuous man could dye,
Reader, thou then might say, here it doth lye.

“ Neare

“ Neare to this place lyeth the body of Mr. Robert Cock, vicar of this parish, who by will left for ever, the yearly produce of fifty pounds (which was all that he had) for teaching poor girls to read, and instructing them in the knowledge and practice of the Christian Religion, as professed and taught in the Church of England.

“ He dyed Oct^r 4, Anno { Dom. 1724.
 { Etat. 54.

“ Goe and do thou likewise.

St. Luke 10th c. 37th v.”

This town has been honoured by several CHARITABLE DONATIONS, amongst which I shall particularize the following:

June 18, 1615, THOMAS RAY, of the city of New Sarum, bequeathed his house and all his tenements in Giggon's-street, after the decease of his daughter, to the poor clothiers of the four following towns: the rents of the first year to those of Trowbridge; the second year, to Chippenham; the third year, to Westbury; the fourth year, to Marlborough; and so round again in the same rotation.

Sir FRANCIS POPHAM, Knight, by deed, gave a messuage and lands at Foxham, in this county, upon trust, that the yearly sum of six pounds should be given at the feast of All Saints, to

three poor burgesses, or freemen, of this borough. The residue of the rents were to be vested in the bailiff and burgesses, to be distributed at their discretion, on every feast of St. Michael.

ROBERT GALE charged his lands and tenements, situate at Clay-pole, in the county of Lincoln, with the payment of twenty pounds yearly, for the use of the poor of this town, to be distributed on the feast of St. Thomas the Apostle, at the discretion of the bailiff and six ancient burgesses: also twenty shillings, to be paid yearly to a clergyman, for doing duty and preaching a sermon on that day: and twenty shillings “to the bailiff and burgesses to drink withal, for their pains in distributing the said twenty pounds.”

The first payment of this charity was given on St. Thomas's Day, 1629.

Mr. HENRY SMITH, by deed, gave a sum of money, payable out of his estates in Lincolnshire, to provide great coats for six poor men of the parish, having the letter S marked with scarlet cloth on the sleeve of each coat.

Mr. GABRIEL GOLDNEY, by will, 1680, charged his estate at Tytherton Lucas, in this parish, with the payment of a sum of money for the same purpose.

Mrs.

Mrs. HAWKINS gave the sum of twelve shillings, for ever, to be distributed annually amongst six widows of freemen of this borough.

———WOODROFFE, by will, gave five pounds, payable yearly out of lands in this parish, now belonging to Matthew Humphries, Esq. for educating ten poor boys, who should be nominated by the vicar and bailiff.

Here is a house and free-school, with a salary of fifteen shillings yearly, payable to a master for educating two poor boys.

A field, called the Smock-ground, now let for eight pounds per annum, was given, and the rent to be expended in shirts and shifts, for poor men and women of the parish, who do not receive alms.

Mr. ROBERT COCK, vicar of this parish, bequeathed the annual produce of fifty pounds, for teaching poor girls to read, and to be instructed in the knowledge of the Christian Religion.

Sir EDWARD BAYNTON, and Sir THOMAS FLUDYER, members for the borough, in 1769, by deed, invested the sum of one thousand pounds in the three per cent. bank annuities, the interest arising from which was, from time to time, to be applied towards the support and maintenance of such freemen of the said borough, and

the widows of freemen living in free houses, in manner and form as the trustees for the time should think proper.

Chippenham was a borough by prescription ; but Queen Mary, by charter, dated the second day of May, in the first year of her reign, ordained, “ that the village, town, and borough of Chippenham, should be a free borough corporate, in deed, fact, and name, for ever, of one bailiff and twelve burgesses.” The charter then states the limits of the borough, names of burgesses, manner of appointing them, &c. and for keeping in reparation the bridge and causeway, gives to the bailiff and burgesses, all that field called Inghland’s, containing, by estimation, seventeen acres ; and all the meadow of Westmead, containing thirty acres ; and all one messuage and appurtenances, called Poke’s, in Rowdon Down, containing one hundred and twenty acres ; and one close of land, called Bur Leaze, four acres ; and twenty-one acres, lying in the common fields ; and one wood, called Rowdon’s Down Coppice, containing, by estimation, twenty-one acres ; and the field, called Bolt’s Croft. All this property was called the Boroughlands of Chippenham, and were part of the possessions of the late Lord Hungerford, and were then

then valued at *nine pounds, ten shillings, and eight-pence.*

This charter, with many other charters of the kingdom, was surrendered into the hands of Charles the Second, A. D. 1684.

James the Second granted another charter to this borough, by which he restored nearly the same privileges as had been granted by the former charter, with one bailiff, and the same number of burgesses. This is dated the 13th of March, in the first year of that King's reign.

The principal inhabitants of Chippenham have evinced a spirit of emulation and patriotism which merits our particular investigation ; being a subject of national importance, as well as local consequence ; and it is hoped it will be imitated by the people of other borough towns.

Custom, that domineering tyrant, has long established his mandates with the corporation of most boroughs, to have annual feasts—to indulge in Bacchanalian and Epicurean intemperance—to sacrifice that god-like attribute of man, *Reason*, on the altar of inebriation and gluttony. The gentlemen of Chippenham have at length abrogated these laws, and have evinced the possession of much good sense, by bursting from the trammels of this arbitrary tyrant. They have generously appropriated the money usually expended

on those occasions, to defray the charges of paving the streets, altering the bridge, and other useful improvements.

At the time of the last election, the members chosen, held forth professions to the effect, that they would assist their constituents in discharging the expences entailed by these important undertakings; but in realizing the hopes they excited, they appear, hitherto, to have shewn a remissness not very creditable to their liberality. The same observation might apply to the shambles, and the old houses clustered against, and around them, and which have previously been noticed as disfiguring the centre of the town; for it seems, that to remove these, and erect a handsome town-hall in their stead, was a hope equally held forth by the representatives, to cajole the inhabitants, and dispatch the chagrin which their previous inattention had occasioned. These gentlemen call themselves men of honour; but, perhaps, they forget that the first precept of the goddess whom they pretend to worship, is an injunction to observe every engagement faithfully.

From the preceding observations, the sagacious reader will naturally conclude, that, in contradistinction to those which are stigmatized with the appellation of *Properity Boroughs*, (from their being supposed to be under the control of certain

certain individuals) Chippenham may be classed among the few that have hitherto preserved their independence.

The influence, however, of the manufacturers concerned in the clothing trade, has, till lately, had an effect little short, it seems, of what, in other places, has been attributed to the *ipse dixit* of some local Lord. But this, with the cause that gave rise to it, has, for some time past, been in a state of decline; a circumstance which, though not immediately falling within the verge of my professed design, may not be uninteresting, nor altogether unamusing, to investigate; as, on the one hand, it may furnish a *lesson* to those who wish to direct the movements of public bodies; and, on the other, may excite a smile at that *importance* which, like a bubble, is frequently the effect but of a trifling cause, and which, by a cause equally as trifling, is often again reduced to its original inefficiency.

About half a century ago, the manufacturers, or clothiers of Chippenham, were (as they still are, in many parts of England) men of a limited capital; consequently, the manufacture cannot be supposed to have been managed on any very ample scale. About this period, however, a gentleman of the name of Fludyer, presented himself to the notice of some of these clothiers, and
opened

opened to them views of a ready sale for their cloth, and an ample supply of wool, both on terms equally interesting; and these views he engaged to realize, on condition that they appointed him their factor, and procured for him a seat in parliament. Thus inspired with the hopes of future advantage, they were induced to exert themselves to such effect as to carry their point, and get him returned for the borough; and (what does not always follow as a consequence, witness what has been remarked in the previous pages) *this* gentleman rather exceeded his promises, than stopped short in performing them. The result was, that the town presently assumed a new appearance; the clothiers acquired fortunes, in which the other traders partook, and by which the poor also were liberal sharers; the women and children, not only of the town, but of all the villages adjacent, being employed in spinning, carding, reeling, &c. and the men in weaving, shearing, and dressing the cloth.

Disposed by this state of things to consider the clothing interest as immediately connected with the general interest of the town, the inhabitants were naturally led to pay a deference to the principal clothiers, as to their local patrons; and who, flattered by this compliment, seemed

3 presently

presently to consider themselves, perhaps, much more so than they really were. The consequence was, that they gradually detached themselves from the society of the other inhabitants, and formed a circle of their own, in which, even persons of the genteeler professions, if occasionally admitted, were looked on with an evident countenance of superiority, or were received with that kind of affability, which as plainly indicated a degree of condescension; and this habit became, in time, so general among the clothiers, that persons of the best natural disposition, on being initiated into the manufactory, insensibly gave into it, and held themselves as no longer to be treated on the level of general sociality.

But though a deference was spontaneously conceded to the clothier by the townsmen, in the first instance, yet, when the clothier seemed to consider it as a *right*, it is natural to suppose that persons of property and education would begin to hesitate in its admission.

This was, in reality, the fact: a contest, the seeds of which had been gradually germinating for a considerable time, at length sprung up, between *unfounded distinction*, and a *consciousness of equality*, in which the clothiers, after having possessed the privilege of nominating and procuring the return of the representatives for many years,

years, were so far vanquished as to be left in a minority.

Nevertheless, this did not produce a reform in their conduct; except, indeed, just on the eve of an election. Meantime, however, the town felt that its interest required the manufactory to be supported; and after much manœuvring on both sides, the contest at last terminated in a kind of tacit adjustment, which left with the clothiers the privilege of introducing and returning *one* member for the borough, and permitted the corporation, or town in general, quietly to bring forward the other.

That leading trait, however, in the general feature of this peace, and a trait certainly much to be lamented, as it tended to destroy the harmony of the whole, still existed; the clothiers continuing to hold themselves at a distance from their neighbours, whatever to the contrary either their property or their merit might have claimed.

But it seems that, notwithstanding the effect with which this must have militated against them, the clothiers, till lately, have had the good fortune to preserve an influence which could not do otherwise than flatter them with a hope of being, one day, restored to their former full ascendancy.

Recently,

Recently, however, as I have before observed, the face of things appears to wear a change. The distance at which the clothiers have generally held themselves, though conceded to by the towns-folks whilst *their interest* was connected with the manufactory, could not be expected but to operate completely to their prejudice, when this interest should be found no longer to retain its force; and that it does not at present, is but too apparent; for, though there never has been so much cloth manufactured here as at *this* period, yet, the introduction of various machines, the manufacture being taken out of the hands of the labourer, the cash heretofore paid as wages being prevented from circulating through the neighbourhood, the many once happy families deprived by this means of procuring a subsistence, and the multitude of poor that have consequently been thrown on the parish for relief, have tended so much to weaken the claims of the clothier on the townsmen in general, that he begins to find he can no longer *command*, but must descend to *court*, the suffrages of his neighbours in favour of a cloth-factor as one of their representatives: a necessity which the philanthropist certainly will not feel inclined to regret, as it promises to
restore

restore to the embrace of sociality a more liberal inclusion.

Having been led to mention *machinery* *, something more may possibly be expected on that subject than what has been advanced ; nor would it, perhaps, be pardonable to pass it over as a new introduction into the *woollen* manufactory, without noticing the opposite effects it has herein produced, compared with its consequences on the manufacture of *cotton*.

On the latter, it is too evident to admit of controversy, that it has produced the highest advantages ; as it enabled the manufacturer not only to improve and diversify the fabric in a manner before inconceivable, but also to reduce the price, so as to render the demand for the article almost universal ; the consequence of which was, that, barely to attend his machines, the manufacturer had to employ many hundred hands which before were but half occupied. In short, machinery may be considered as the plough which opened the ground preparatory

* On the subject of machines it might be added as a conjecture, that their use can only be advantageous in states thinly peopled, but in those of abundant population, it is advisable rather to discourage them, in order that the inhabitants may be preserved from indolence, which is always the parent of vice and depredation.

to the harvest of British muslins, callicoes, dimities, gingham, &c.

Unfortunately, however, in the article of woollen, the case was reversed : here the premises, if I may be allowed to continue the figure, were already in high culture, though by a method less concise ; consequently, the introduction of machines for carding, spinning, shearing, &c. served here only to deprive thousands of employment, and throw them on the support of charity, and that without improving the manufacture, either in texture or variety, or benefiting the public by a reduction in the price. For, strange as it may appear, though cloth is now made with a ten-fold expedition to what it was, and with infinitely less expence, yet, as though a general combination had been formed to preclude the clothier those extra profits which his *new* mode of operation seemed to promise him, it happens that the wool-merchant, the oil-man, the dry-salter, &c. have all made their prices correspond to such a level, that, ultimately, cloth has advanced in price, and yet left the clothier little, if any thing, more than his usual gains.

Having thus far enlarged the municipal and commercial features of this town, perhaps, to finish the picture, it may be necessary that something,

something, also, of the *moral*, should appear on the canvas. And here, unhappily, we must admit, that the character which generally attaches to places where large manufactories are carried on, applies also to Chippenham.

It has somewhere been observed, though perhaps with more apparent, than real truth, that vegetation of the *desirable kind* is most efficient where the soil is not over crowded, but that *weeds* are never more rank than when they *cluster together*. However this may be in the vegetable world, it must be admitted that, in the moral, a tendency not dissimilar is undeniable. Of this, the place of which I am now tracing the outline is an evidence, where the dissoluteness of the lower orders is such as to afford sufficient occasion for the exertions of the worthy magistrate, Matthew Humphreys, Esq. who presides over the peace of the district.

As to the middling classes, there is little to distinguish them from those of other towns, except perhaps an attachment to dress, and the fashion of the day; and that, in general, though the lower class speak a very imperfect dialect, these deliver themselves in as good English (not to say better) as those of any town in the west of England. One thing, however, which must redound more to their advantage than a good phraseology,

phraseology, ought not to be omitted, though to mention it as distinguishing the inhabitants of this, from those of other places, would, it is to be hoped for the credit of decency, be giving an unmerited preference; and this is, that among the class of which we are treating, inebriation, a vice too prevalent here some time since, appears now to be generally exploded.

On the score of commendation, perhaps a tendency to respect religion ought to be enumerated among those qualities for which the inhabitants of this borough are entitled to notice, and the more so, as this disposition is not carried so far as to produce that attachment to *sect*, which too frequently tends to generate bigotry; on the contrary, the candid observer cannot but be gratified to see men of various persuasions, pay a deference to each others principles, without yielding, or being required to yield, their own.

Formerly there was a very respectable body of Quakers in this town; but at present, though they have a very decent place of assembly, two elderly persons are the whole of that profession.

The Presbyterians also, about half a century ago, were very numerous here, but at present there are few, if any, remaining; nor is this a matter of surprise, since Methodism, of the sect of Whitfield, has become so prevalent; and

which, though not built on the same ecclesiastic foundation, nor so peculiarly disposed as to its political structure, yet still holds those Calvinistic tenets to which the great body of English dissenters have ever been attached.

Instead then of the Presbyterian meeting-house, which is in a state of decay, the general place of religious resort *now* is the Methodist, or, as of late it is more usually styled, the Independent: and as the pulpit here is frequently occupied by preachers of divers opinions, it may of course be concluded that the inhabitants, of all ranks and denominations, occasionally attend here, without an idea of forsaking either the establishment, or their own particular societies.

But here, pleasant as it is to contemplate, as the height of civilization, those mutual concessions which one man makes to another on these occasions, the exultation of the moralist must not be suffered to infringe on the duty of the topographer, to which I shall return, by observing that Chippenham affords little, either in the walk of art or nature, which can excite attention in the eye of curiosity. There are, indeed, two mineral springs in its vicinity, one of which was built over by a late Welsh judge, and a pump erected. The waters obtained for a time a degree of celebrity; and the pump is still

still standing, as is also the little free-stone building under which it is sheltered; but it is now never visited, except by those who cultivate the gardens in which it is situated. The sanction of some medical name seems only wanted to cause this spring to become a place of general resort; for, not to rely implicitly on the assertion expressed in the motto over the pump, and which was, “*Mille malis prodest,*” but of which “*—— —lis prodest,*” only remains, it must be evident that its effects as a chalybeate cannot be inconsiderable; for so decided is the impregnation of steel, that oak shavings infused in its waters, produce a black tincture, and tea, instead of its usual amber colour, assumes an appearance more like ink. The other spring remains in its original state, but is not wholly neglected by the inhabitants, who frequently, especially the poorer class, have recourse to its medicinal qualities.

As to curiosities, though Chippenham may have little to boast, yet its situation, and the agreeable scenery with which it is surrounded, cannot fail to excite pleasure. In the different avenues, especially, which lead to it, there is a contrast so peculiar, and at the same time so striking, that it would be unpardonable, in the moment of description, not to notice it.

Thus, in approaching from the Bristol and Gloucester road, a long, high, and somewhat magnificent bridge, together with the river, which here suddenly expands itself, conveys, in connection with a view of the town, the idea (though an illusive one) of a considerable navigation. On the contrary, as we approach from Bath, the slowly winding brook at a distance on the right,—the mead reclined beside it, in level serenity,—a genteel residence on the brow of the hill, which commands the first view of the town,—and an elegant mansion at the foot of it, where lawns (adorned with clusters of foliage) rising superior to the road, on either hand, are connected by a green Chinese bridge, under which the traveller passes, altogether conspire to impress the mind with conceptions of a very highly improved district*. Whilst entering from the London road, the commercial (or rather manufactorial) feature of the town is highly raised by frequent pieces of cloth, and great quantities of yarn, hung on rails, or thrown on the hedges to

* This mansion, which is large and respectable, was built by ——— Norris, Esq. grandfather to the present W. Norris, Esq. of Nonsuch, near this town; and which, on the removal of the family to their present seat, was sold by his son, to W. Northey, Esq. and whose son sold it to the present possessor, M. Humphreys, Esq. already noticed as a principal magistrate of the district.

dry; and the busy weaver, ever and anon glancing on the eye, from the ample windows of a long train of cottages, which for half a mile, or more, skirt this approach in humble, but interesting succession. Here the description of Chippenham might conclude, were it not that having mentioned it as a *free borough*, perhaps it were unjust to dismiss the account of it without noticing certain nefarious endeavours which have been made at different times to *deprive* it of that distinction, by purchasing, at immoderate prices, the burgage-houses, and that not only by the leaders of the clothing party, but even by those also who have speciously avowed themselves the advocates of independence.

This practice, however, has been so unequivocally censured, and so generally execrated and opposed by the inhabitants at large, that it is hoped the attempt will no more be made. It has tended, nevertheless, very materially to affect the rent of *these houses*, which in general are high.

And here it is to be noticed, that a vote in this borough depends on being the inhabitant of a building erected on a *certain spot*, on which stood an inhabited house when the charter was first granted. These houses, at that period, were only one hundred and twenty-nine in number;

and to which number the votes still remain restricted. A house built on *new* ground, though within the borough, and though possessed by a person ever so respectable, has by no means the privilege of conferring a vote.

Whether the occupiers of these mansions find their advantage in giving the extra rents which are charged upon their houses, it may perhaps be dangerous to inquire. Here then, whilst the eye of the observer traces, or fancies that he traces, the worm of corruption operating to corrode the pillars of freedom, he can only indulge a prayer that its progress may stop short of the ruin of the structure.

I must not conclude my account of Chippenham without noticing another charitable bequest; the intent of which being peculiarly applied to the benefit of *pedestrians*, seems to appeal to *me* with more particular force: this is a causeway, or causeway, that extends from a place called Chippenham Clift to Wick Hill, a distance of about four miles. At the first mentioned place is the following couplet, inscribed on a large upright stone:

Hither extendeth Maud Heath's gift,
For where I stand is Chippenham Clift.

Erected in 1698, and given in 1474.

At

At Wick Hill is a stone with another couplet:

From this Wick Hill begins the praise
Of Maud Heath's gift to these high-ways.

Some account of the charity, and the time when it was given, are recorded on another stone pillar at Calloways, near the further end of the causey, from Chippenham:

TO THE MEMORY OF THE WORTHY MAUD HEATH, OF LANGLEY BURRELL, SPINSTER, WHO, IN THE YEAR OF GRACE, 1474, FOR THE GOOD OF TRAVELLERS, DID IN CHARITY BESTOW, IN LAND AND HOUSES, ABOUT EIGHT POUNDS A YEAR, FOR EVER, TO BE LAID OUT ON THE HIGH-WAY AND CAUSEY, LEADING FROM WICK HILL TO CHIPPENHAM CLIFT.

THIS PILLAR WAS SET UP BY THE FEOFFEEES
IN 1698.

INJURE ME NOT.



SECT. XXIX.

CORSHAM,

OR COSHAM, as it is sometimes written, is situated on a dry stony soil, in the hundred of Chippenham, and between that place and Bath; being about four miles from the former, and nine from the latter. Our ancient topographical writers are very brief in their accounts of this place; and even what they have said appears rather questionable. Leland observes, “Cosham is a good uplandish town, where be ruins of an old manor place, and thereby a park, wont to be dower to the Queens of England. Mr. Baynton, in Queen Anne’s days, pulled down, by licence, a piece of this house, somewhat to help his buildings at Bromham. Old Mr. Bonhomme told me that Cosham appertained to the Earldom of Cornwall, and that Cosham was a mansion place belonging to it, where they sometime lay. Al the men of this townlet were bond; so that upon a time one of
the

the Earls of Cornwall hearing them secretly lament their fate, manumitted them for money, and gave them the Lordship of Cosham in copyhold to pay a chief rent."

"Cosham (says Camden) is now a *small village*, anciently a royal vill of King Ethelred, and famous for the retirement of the Earls of Cornwall, *from whence* is seen the ancient castle of Castle Combe."

I apprehend that the last quoted topographer never visited this place, and that he was deceived in two particulars which appear in the foregoing extract.

First, It is not probable that Corsham was a *small village* in his time; and, secondly, It was quite impossible for him to see Castle Combe from any part of the town. That it has been a place of some consequence seems evident, but it does not so clearly appear that King Ethelred ever had a palace here; at least I cannot find any *satisfactory* documents to that effect.

In the reign of Edward the Confessor, it was the Lordship of *Tosti*, Earl of Northumberland, and after the conquest, the retirement of the Earls of Cornwall; of whom, Richard, second son of King John, granted many privileges to the town, which the inhabitants still enjoy; and
Edmund,

Edmund, his son, in the 13th year of Edward the First, obtained a charter for a weekly market, on Wednesday. This was afterwards discontinued; but through the exertions of Mr. Methuen, and some other gentlemen, it is again frequented, and a new market-house was erected at the expence of the late Paul Methuen, Esq. in the year 1784. The church is a very neat Gothic edifice, and is ornamented with a very light handsome spire. The vicar of Corsham possesses very extraordinary privileges, having episcopal jurisdiction within the parish. The bailiff of the manor, is also sheriff and coroner within the lordship. Bishop Tanner says, here was a cell to St. Stephen's Abbey, at Caen, value 22l. The town consists principally of one long street, and the houses are all built with stone. At the entrance from Laycock, on the left hand, is a large building, founded and endowed as an alms-house by Dame Margaret Hungerford, in the year 1668. It is intended for six poor women, who have this habitation provided them, and some other donations are allowed towards their support. Here is a small market every Wednesday, and two annual fairs.

SIR RICHARD BLACKMORE, a voluminous writer of physical, theological, and poetical works, and an eminent physician, was born in
this

this town. “He was one of those men,” says Dr. Johnson, “whose writings have attracted much notice, but of whose life and manners very little has been communicated, and whose lot it has been to be much oftener mentioned by enemies than by friends.” At thirteen years of age he was sent to Westminster school, and in 1668, was entered at Edmund Hall, Oxford, where he took the degree of M. A. June 3d, 1676, and resided there thirteen years. In an early part of his life, he was induced, from indigent circumstances, to keep a school, but did not continue long in this occupation ; for we find that he took his degree of M. D. at Padua, and after wandering about on the Continent for one year and a half, he returned to London. Soon after, he was chosen fellow of the College of Physicians, and entered on a good line of practice.

Having early declared himself in favour of the revolution, King William, in 1697, knighted him, and chose him one of his physicians in ordinary. On Queen Anne’s accession, he was also appointed one of her physicians; in which office he continued for some time. Blackmore was made a poet, not by necessity, but inclination ; and wrote, not for a livelihood, but for fame, or, according to his own declaration, “to engage
poetry

poetry in the cause of virtue." But Dryden, Pope, Dennis, and some other professed poets of the day, treated his performances with much contempt and pointed ridicule. Swift also, with his usual acrimony attacked him, and satirized the titles of two of his poems in the following distich, saying, that he

" Undid *creation* at a jerk,
And of *redemption* made d——d work."

But notwithstanding Sir Richard was much ridiculed by the wits, Addison and Johnson have bestowed some praise on him; and the latter has, with his usual acuteness and felicity, given a fair discriminating critique on his writings, which were pretty numerous, as may be seen by the following list:—Prince and King Arthur, an epic poem, in twenty books; Eliza, ditto, in ten books; Alfred, ditto, in twelve books; the Redeemer, ditto, in six books; the Creation, ditto, in seven books; Nature and Man, ditto, in three books. In addition to these, he wrote some theological tracts, several treatises on the plague, small-pox, consumption, and spleen. Dr. Johnson concludes his interesting memoir of Sir Richard, with the following observations:

" As

“As an author, he may justly claim the honours of magnanimity. The incessant attacks of his enemies, whether serious or merry, are never discovered to have disturbed his quiet, or to have lessened his confidence in himself; they neither awed him to silence nor to caution; they neither provoked him to petulance, nor depressed him to complaint. While the distributors of literary fame were endeavouring to depreciate and degrade him, he either despised or defied them; wrote on, as he had written before, and never turned aside to quiet them by civility, or repress them by confutation.

“To reason in verse is allowed to be difficult; but Blackmore not only reasons in verse, but very often reasons poetically; and finds the art of uniting ornament with strength, and ease with closeness. This is a skill which Pope might have condescended to learn from him, when he needed it so much in his moral essays.

“In his descriptions, both of life and nature, the poet and the philosopher happily co-operate; truth is recommended by elegance, and elegance sustained by truth.”

CORSHAM HOUSE,

The seat of Paul Cobb Methuen, Esq. was erected near the site of the palace or mansion above-mentioned, in the year 1582, as appears

appears by a date in the south-front. After that period, it underwent various alterations and additions; the most material was made by Mr. Brown, who added a suite of rooms to the east side, consisting of a gallery and state apartment for the reception of Sir Paul Methuen's collection of pictures; but these additional rooms were insufficient to contain *all* the paintings, consequently the collection was divided, some being in the town house and others here. The late Mr. Methuen proposed to concentrate the whole at Corsham House, but never carried his proposed plan into execution; this was reserved for the present worthy owner, who has enlarged and ornamented his mansion in a style of elegance and grandeur highly worthy of the collection, and such as will reflect a lasting credit on the architect.

As, in this refined age, it may appear a bold measure to suggest additions and alterations to a house in the character of Queen Elizabeth's Gothic, I am happy to avail myself of Mr. Methuen's goodness in allowing me to transcribe a few pages from Mr. Repton's *Red Book*, of Corsham, containing the principles on which these alterations were founded, and the peculiar circumstances of *situation* which render such a *character* essential to this building.

“ At

“ At the time this mansion was erected, the situation of a house in the country was determined by considerations very different from those which now prevail. Instead of the elegant houses which are now placed in the centres of parks, distinct from any other habitation, it was the pride of the Seigneur du Village, or even of the English Baron, to live close to the town or village which conferred its title on his palace, or himself; nor was there any inconvenience in the proximity of the village, so long as the house was disjoined from it by ample court-yards or massive gates; and some of its fronts looked into a garden, a lawn, or a park, where the neighbours could not intrude. Yet even these views, in some instances, were confined, and rendered formally dull by lofty inclosures of walls, and clipped hedges. It therefore became one great object of modern taste to throw down those cumbrous restraints of former grandeur, to clear away the solemn gloom of this ancient magnificence, and open views to the adjacent country, which gave so delightful an air of cheerfulness and freedom to the mansion, that it is no wonder the practice became general, and that every house should attempt to look so far beyond its former boundary, that at length it became a principle

principle in modern gardening, to remove or conceal every species of boundary, however distant from the eye.

“ In determining a situation for a new house, it may often be advisable to place it at a distance from other habitations, that the modern taste for freedom and extent may be gratified ; but in accommodating plans of improvement to houses already built, it requires due consideration, how far such a taste should be indulged ; otherwise we may become involved in difficulties and absurdities ; for it is not uncommon to begin by removing walls which conceal objects far more offensive than themselves ; and the destruction of whole towns and villages has not unfrequently been the consequence of such a misjudging, or at least misapplication of taste.”

Corsham House, like most other buildings of the same date, is only separated from the town by a large court-yard, with the house at one end, and the stables at the other. This was not, however, inclosed by buildings, but by walls, covered with shrubs and ivy ; and disfigured by Grecian statues and vases, totally out of character with the Gothic front. It was the general opinion of those who were acquainted with Corsham, that this court should be destroyed ; which opinion

its present incongruity might, at first sight, appear to justify ; but Mr. Repton uniformly opposed it, upon these principles :

“ The first question that occurs in the improvement of Corsham, is how to reconcile the confinement of the entrance-court with the present taste for freedom and extent ? I answer by saying they are irreconcilable, because the church-yard on one side, and the town on the other, forbid the attempt ; for although some little space might be obtained between the town and the court on one side, that space is insufficient for a lawn or paddock ; nor is it possible (were it desirable) to avail ourselves of it to enlarge the court-yard, because the church, on the other side, cannot be removed. But the court-yard is of sufficient extent ; and an entrance court is essential to the character of the south front of Corsham. All the improvement, therefore, of which I conceived the entrance-court at Corsham susceptible, is to communicate the architectural character of the house itself to the buildings and walls which surround the court, in order to connect and give unity of character to the whole.

“ Where additions and alterations are made to an *old house*, the internal convenience and improvement should certainly be the first objects

of consideration ; yet the effect of the outside must not be neglected. And here good taste will naturally suggest a certain degree of correspondence and similitude of character betwixt the several parts, that they may together form a perfect whole. This is a circumstance which our ancestors seem to have little regarded ; for we frequently distinguish the dates by the different stile of building.

“ This was of less consequence when each front, being surrounded by its court, or parterre, became a separate object. But since modern gardening, by removing those separations, has enabled us to view a house at the angle, so as to see two fronts at the same time in perspective, we become disgusted by the want of unity in the design.

“ The south front of Corsham is of the style called Queen Elizabeth’s Gothic. The north front was of Grecian architecture ; and consequently, at the time Mr. Brown altered the east front, a question would arise, Whether this new building should accord with the north or the south front ? This I think was very properly determined in favour of the former ; because it was most likely to be seen in the same point of view with that front, as the Gothic front was nowhere visible but from the court ; the new building

ing was therefore made to resemble the Grecian front ; but Mr. Brown, with great judgment, copied the old character in the end of his new building, because it was to make a part of the original front.

“It is now proposed to add an entire new range of buildings to the north side of Corsham ; and here a new question arises, What style of architecture ought to be adopted ; whether it ought to accord with the original style of the south, or with the east front ; which was evidently built to agree with the north front, now about to be destroyed ?

“When Mr. Brown made his design of the east front to correspond with that of the north, there was no intention of the present alteration ; but now the east and the south fronts will be seen together ; it therefore becomes essential that the three fronts should be of one and the same character. The east elevation is in the heaviest and worst style of regular architecture ; and to make the old south front conform with any design of Grecian architecture that might be adopted for the new north front, would not only require it to be entirely re-built, but would make an alteration in the interior of every room in that part of the house unavoidable. It would become necessary also to change the character of the en-

trance-court, and of the buildings that terminate it; and such a total alteration would be attended with a greater expence than an entire new house, built in another situation. But this not being the intention of the proprietor of Corsham House, the original front becomes the most proper object of imitation in designing the new buildings to the north, with such new modelling of the east elevation as will be necessary to make the three fronts accord.

“ But there are other reasons in the present instance for preferring the character of the old south front to any other that could be adopted. A house of Grecian architecture built in a town, and separated from it only by a court-yard, always implies the want of extent of landed property about it; because being visibly of recent erection, the taste of the present day would have placed the house in the centre of a lawn or park, if there had been sufficient land belonging to it. But mansions built in the Gothic character of Henry the Eighth, Elizabeth, and James, being generally found in situations close to towns or villages, so far from impressing the mind with the want of surrounding territory, their comparative size and grandeur with the rest of the houses in the town and village, their massive gates, and ample courts, imply that the
owner

owner is not only the Lord of the surrounding country, but of the town and village itself. Even the noble collection of pictures, the glory of Corsham House, the assembling the whole of which is the principal inducement to the intended additions, might, in a modern Grecian house, appear to be the hasty and recent collection of some modern nabob, and not of the old inhabitants of the ancient mansion of a more ancient family. And however Grecian architecture may be more regularly beautiful, there is a stateliness and grandeur in the lofty towers, the rich and splendid assemblage of turrets, battlements, and pinnacles, that is unknown to the most perfect Grecian buildings.

“ I have ever considered that something more is requisite than the mere date or style of a building to render it perfect ; there must be a marked character, by which its purpose and intentions may be obvious. A house should not look like an hospital, nor a church like an assembly-room ; but a stranger should be able instantly to decide the uses of a building from its external appearance. Of this kind of characteristic architecture there are two admirable specimens in London : the façade of Newgate, and the front of St. Luke’s hospital ; both the works of George Dance, Esq.

“ Let us now consider, of the three kinds of Gothic architecture, namely, the CASTLE GOTHIC, the CHURCH GOTHIC, and the HOUSE GOTHIC; Which is the best adapted for the purposes of a dwelling?

“ The castle Gothic, with few apertures, and large masses betwixt them, might be well calculated for defence; but the apartments are rendered so gloomy, that it can only be made habitable by enlarging the apertures and increasing the number of them, and thereby destroying its original character.

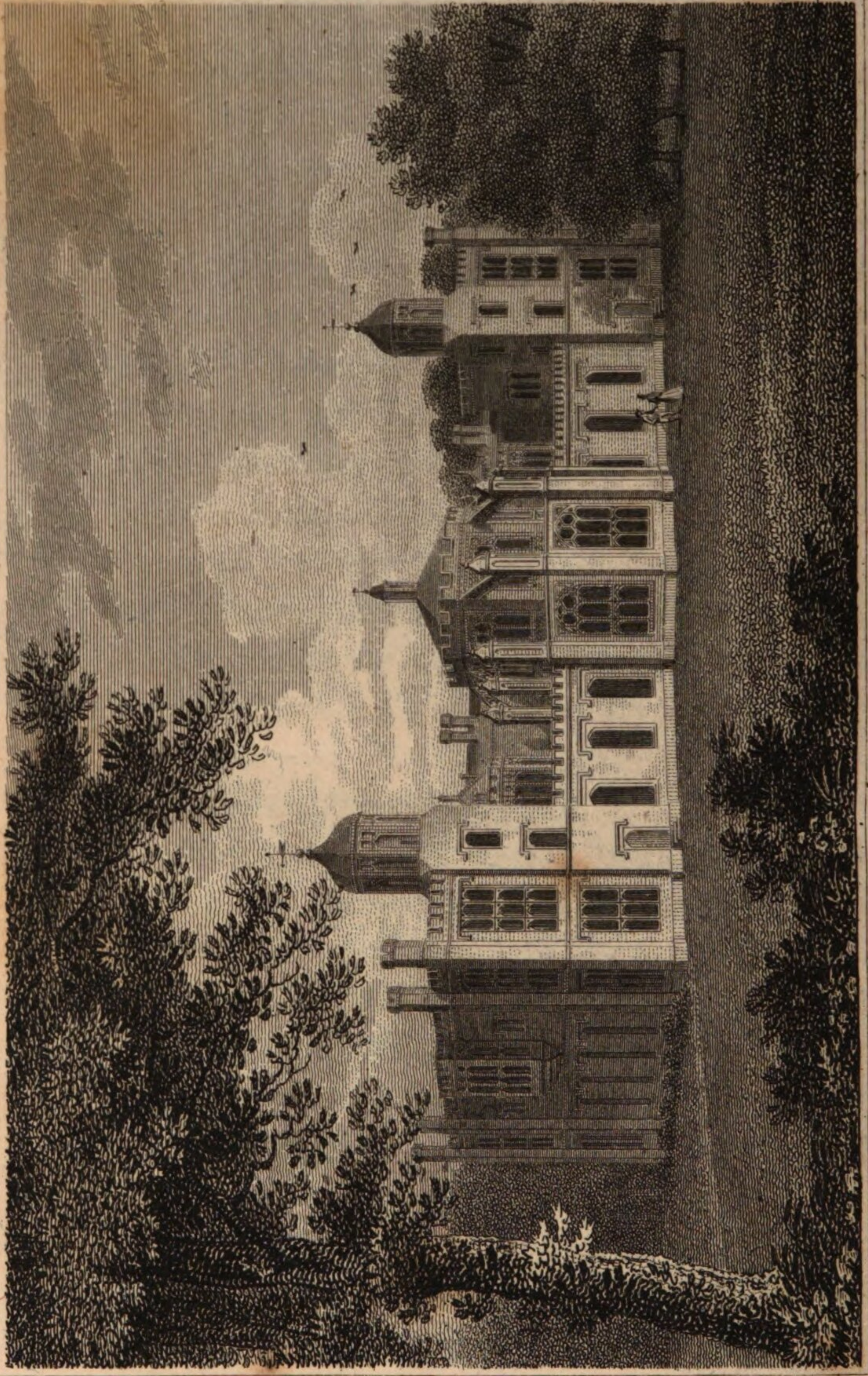
“ The more elegant Gothic of churches consists of very large apertures, and small masses, or piers. But here the too great quantity of light requires to be subdued by painted glass; and however beautiful the true pinnacle Gothic may be in churches, or the chapels and halls of colleges, it is seldom applicable to a house, without such violence and mutilation as destroys its general character; and therefore I fear, a Gothic house of this sort must look like a church, or like nothing; for I believe there are no large houses extant older than the time of Henry the Eighth, or Elizabeth; all others are either the remains of baronial castles, or conventual edifices. At the dissolution of the monasteries by Harry the Eighth, a new species of
3 architecture

architecture was adopted; and the oldest mansions we now see in England were either built or repaired about the end of that reign, or in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. Hence it has acquired in our days, the name of Elizabeth's Gothic; and although, in the latter part of her reign, and the unsettled times which followed, bad taste had corrupted the original purity of its character, by introducing bad fragments of Grecian architecture amongst its ornaments, yet the general outlines and effect of those houses are perfectly Gothic; and their bold projections, their broad masses, the richness of their windows, and the irregular outline of roofs, turrets, and tall chimnies, produce a grand contour, and a play of light and shadow wonderfully picturesque; and in a painter's eye amply compensate for those occasional inaccuracies urged against them as specimens of regular architecture. I do not hesitate, on the whole, to pronounce that, of all the various dates and styles of architecture proper for a mansion, there is none more dignified, more picturesque, or even better adapted to the purposes of modern life, than might be derived from the best style of Queen Elizabeth's Gothic; and I am therefore of opinion, that if Corsham is to retain any character of Gothic, it will be more advisable to make the additions

correspond with the character of the original south front, and improve upon it by copying from the purest examples of that time, than to alter it to any other style, either of Gothic or Grecian architecture.

“In the imitation of any building, I hold it not only justifiable, but judicious, to omit whatever is spurious and foreign to its character, and to supply the place of those incongruities from the purest examples of the same age; for this reason we have rejected the Grecian mouldings with which the corrupted taste of James have defaced the Gothic forms of Elizabeth, and substituted the true Gothic mouldings of her day. The turrets, chimnies, shafts, and oriel, will be found in the examples of Burleigh, Hampton Court, Hatfield, and most of the buildings of Harry the Eighth and Elizabeth. But the centre-piece of the north front, though of the same character, yet being in imitation of a building somewhat earlier than the time of Elizabeth, together with the peculiarity of its forms, makes it necessary to describe at some length why we have adopted it.

“And here I must assume another principle; namely, that in designing any of the Gothic characters, it is presumed that *buildings, or fragments of buildings, exist, or have existed, of the*
thing



H. Bampton Esq del.

CORSHAM HOUSE.

London, Published April 2, 1801, by Verner & Hood, Printers for the Beauties of Wiltshire.

Stevenson Sculp.

thing you profess to imitate, otherwise it ceases to be an imitation; and the most pleasing of such compositions can never assume any other appellation, than a caprice after such or such a manner. It behoves, therefore, every designer of correct taste in the Gothic, not to admit in his compositions any thing for which he has not an actual example in the age, the character of which he professes to copy. In pursuance of this principle, we looked about for an instance of an octangular room projecting beyond the rest of the walls in any of the houses of that date, but without success; and the chapel of Henry the Seventh, at Westminster, though not an octagon, was the only projecting regular polygon of the style of Elizabeth's Gothic. This, therefore, became our model for the centre-room of the north front; and this example not only furnished us with a precedent for our projecting room, but other parts of its composition peculiarly suited our situation.

“ This front is towards the north; and any building in such an aspect, however numerous the breaks, will always appear a flat façade, because there can be no sun to distinguish those breaks. But the tall and isolated turrets, and flying detached buttresses of Henry the Seventh's chapel, having the air playing round them, and

4

turning

turning their octangular sides and pinnacles to the sun, will produce a relief that no other means can afford in a north aspect; and exhibit catching lights that will dissipate, in a great measure, its melancholy gloom.

“It was for this reason, with those already given, that we determined on the octangular form for the centre-room; and adopted octangular turrets rising above the rest of the roof: and for the same purpose we carried the eating-room and music room only one story, that the morning and evening sun might light up the centre building, and the projecting wings.

“At the same time that the chapel of Henry the Seventh is confessedly the object meant to be imitated in the north front of Corsham, we trust it will be visible that the heavy and cumbrous appearance essential to a church, has assumed a lightness and airiness not less essential when applied to the purposes of a dwelling.”

Having attended to Mr. Repton's ingenious arguments and observations on Corsham House, and the peculiar style of architecture displayed in the alterations, let us next examine their effects. We have already seen that the additions originated in the necessity of providing rooms to receive that part of the Methuen collection which was in London, and not in the want of sufficient

sufficient apartments for domestic purposes. The middle of the house, between the wings, was occupied by a hall, stair-case, drawing-room, eating-room, and a narrow passage, all which were small, and very low; these have been laid together, and formed into one hall, the ceilings taken away, and a gallery made all round open to the hall, with a stair-case at each end leading by double flights of steps on each side to the galleries; this room, which is fitted up as an old baronial hall, that it might correspond with the venerable front towards the court-yard, is one hundred and ten feet in length, including the stair-cases, twenty-five feet broad, and twenty-five feet high; the stair-cases are separated from the hall by open Gothic screens. The east wing of the house had a square library, two smaller rooms, and a stair-case: the two smaller rooms and the stair-case have been thrown together, and converted into a library forty-five feet long, and twenty-two feet wide, which is also fitted up in the character of the old front. The square room is no longer a library, but a breakfast-room; it has a *singular cornice*, composed of small heads, or bustos, supporting the points of Gothic groins, and though there are *one hundred and sixty* in number, yet they are so varied, that not any two are alike; and
though

though every head is expressive of bearing weight, yet each countenance expresses it in a different way.

The additional rooms which have been made at Corsham, are on the north side of the house, at the back of the hall, and fill up the whole space between the east and west wing, and consist of an eating-room, a saloon, and a music-room; the eating-room is the easternmost, and is thirty-six feet by twenty-four feet, and eighteen feet high; the saloon is in the middle, and is an octagon, forty feet diameter, and twenty-four feet high, commanding a beautiful view of the lawn and water; the music-room is the westernmost, and is thirty-six feet by twenty-four feet, and eighteen feet high, the ceiling is coved and enriched with a very large guilochi, the openings of which are of plate glass, and afford an upper light, which in all cases is the best for pictures: these three rooms are *en suite*, and communicate by means of the music-room with the grand picture-gallery leading to the drawing-room, state bed-room, and dressing-room. This is the general disposition of the ground-floor of Corsham House, as the present possessor has enlarged and improved it; and Mr. Methuen has certainly followed up the spirit of his distinguished ancestor, who formed this noble collection,

tion, by providing a mansion no less noble for their occupation.

The improvement to the grounds by Mr. Repton, consists chiefly in having made a large lake in the valley, instead of a small pool on the hill near the east front. This is so judiciously placed, that it occupies the lowest part of the grounds, and leads the eye to the most wooded, extensive, and best part of the scenery. The park has been also considerably enlarged, by inclosing some fields within its walls; and another great improvement is effected by removing a large part of a formal belt or screen of plantation near the Chippenham road, which opens to some interesting prospects across the country, and gives apparent extent to the park in this direction. The approaches are also considerably altered, and give a pleasing view of the water, the house, and the distant country. The walks are very interesting, not only from the variety of views, but from the various trees and shrubs with which they are enriched, as great attention has been paid to the assortment and disposition of the plants.

This mansion, from its proximity to that emporium of valetudinarians, and fashionable loungers, Bath; and from its deserved celebrity as a repository of valuable *original paintings*, is much visited,

visited, not only by all persons of real taste, but also by those who affect it. On this account I shall conclude my description of Corsham House with a list of the principal pictures in this collection. Persons who have seen them, or who are intimate with the styles and peculiar merits of the masters here named, will require no comment from me; but I am extremely sorry that I cannot furnish the stranger with a more explanatory description. In consequence of the alterations that have been making here for these three or four years past, great part of the pictures have been stowed out of the way, and placed in such situations that I could not examine them with that critical attention which I wished, and which would enable me to appreciate their respective merits in description. The *whole* of this collection was made by the Right Honourable Sir Paul Methuen, K. B. and consists of three hundred and fifty-six pieces, the principal of which are not only by the most celebrated masters, but the major part of them are the *chef-d'œuvres* of the respective artists.

An old Man's head in a Ruff, by Rubens.

Lot and his two Daughters, by Lorenzo Lotto.

Portrait of Pope Innocent the Tenth, by Velasquez.

Fernando

Fernando Cortez, the Conqueror of Mexico,
by Titian.

Two Fruit-Pieces, by Michael Angelo.

The Virgin and Child, by Carlo Cignani.

St. Sebastian, by Guido.

Head of a Spanish General, by Borgognone.

Two Landscapes, by Nic. Poussin.

Scipio and the Fair Captive, by Pietro da
Cortona.

A Fortune-Teller, by Giorgione.

Landscape, with Figures, by Bamboccio.

A Country Tinker, by Jn^o. Bap. Weenix.

Two fine pictures, by Claude de Lorraine.

One representing the effect of a setting sun;
the other the dawn of morning. Both of these
choice paintings have been engraved and pub-
lished in Boydell's collection.

The Virgin and Child in the Clouds, by Murillo.

A Man's Head, by Correggio.

Judith preparing to cut off the head of Holo-
fernes, by Paul Veronese.

A Port in the Mediterranean, by Vander-
velde, Junior.

Fight with the Turks, by ditto.

The Virgin and Child in the Clouds, by
Vandyck.

Judith going to the tent of Holofernes, by
Paul Veronese.

Sketch

- Sketch of a Battle, by Francesco Mola.
Head of the elder Bassan, by himself.
Our Saviour, and the Woman taken in Adultery,
by Axarello, a Genoese painter.
A Head, by Leonardo de Vinci.
The Descent from the Cross, by Rubens.
Sebastian and other Saints, by Filippo Lauri.
Martyrdom of St. Lawrence, by Titian.
Virgin and Child, by Raphael.
Our Saviour and Nicodemus, by Guercino.
The Amphitheatre at Rome, by Viviano.
Our Saviour, and the Woman of Samaria, by
Guercino.
The Marriage of Jacob, by Ciro Ferri.
The Virgin, our Saviour, and some Saints, by
Ludovico Carracci.
A Garland of Flowers, by Mario Fiori.
The Virgin and Child, St. John the Baptist,
St. Joseph, and St. Anne, by Parmigiano.
Our Saviour in the Garden, by Malosso.
The Nativity, by Pasqualini.
The Ordination of St. Denis, Patron of France,
by St. Clement, the Pope ; by Eustachi le
Lucus.
David and Abigail, by Rubens.
A Female Saint, by Pietro da Cortona.
Tancred and Arminia, from Tasso, by ditto.
The Annunciation, by Paul Veronese.

The

The Nativity, by Tintoret.

Women, working by Candle-light, by Jacomo Bassan.

Rubens and his Family, Wolf and Fox-hunting, by himself and Snyders.

A Physical Consultation, by Spagnoletto.

Our Saviour betrayed by Judas, by Vandyck.

Tobias and the Angel, by M. Angelo.

Charity, and the three Children, by Vandyck.

The Marriage of St. Catharine, by Guercino.

Venus dressing, and Cupid holding her Looking-glass, by Paul Veronese.

The Marriage at Cana, in Galilee, by Luca Giordano.

Judith reproving the Governors of the City, by Paul Veronese.

Landscape, by Sal. Rosa.

Judith presented to Holofernes, by Paul Veronese.

Vulcan and his Cyclops, by Jordaens of Antwerp.

David with the Head of Goliath, by Leonello Spada.

Dead Christ, with the Virgin and St. John, by An. Carracci.

A large picture representing the Baptism of our Saviour, by Guido.

A Mathematician, by Spagnoletto.

A Magdalen, by Titian.

Virgin and Child, by Lanfranc.

The Martyrdom of the Innocents, by Vandyck.

The Flight of the Assyrian Army, by P. Veronese.

A Landscape, by Sal. Rosa.

Holofernes entertaining Judith at a Feast, by Paul Veronese.

Herodias, with the Head of St. John the Baptist, by Luca Giordano.

A Turk's Head, by Rembrandt.

An emblematical picture, representing the *virtues* and *duties* belonging to a good Christian; the Virgin with our Saviour in her lap; St. Peter kneeling and kissing his feet; St. John pointing to a lamb; and the three cardinal virtues, Faith, Hope, and Charity, by Titian.

Our Saviour at the House of the Pharisee, and Mary Magdalen anointing his Feet, by Carlo Dolce.

This picture is out of the style of this artist, who never before attempted so great a subject: the composition is from a drawing of Ludovico Cigoli's. The person for whom it was executed is portrayed as a servant waiting at table.

Two Battle-pieces, by Luca Giordano.

A picture representing the history of William,
the

the last Duke of Aquitain, who left his duchy and turned Hermit, by *Ciro Ferri*.

Eleanor, the daughter of this Prince, married *Henry the Second of England*, who had the dutchy of Aquitain for her dowry.

A Carpet and Curtain, by *Maltese*; with Fruit, by *M. Angelo*.

Martyrdom of *St. Stephen*, copied from *An. Carracci*, by *Dominichino*.

A naked Boy blowing Bubbles, and treading on a Death's Head, representing Vanity, by *Elizabetha Sirani*.

Portrait of the Duchess of Mantua, granddaughter of the Emperor Charles the Fifth, by *Castiglione*.

A Landscape and a Musical Conversation, in which are represented portraits of *Sir Peter Lely* and Family, by *Sir Peter*.

Portrait of *Lady Ann Carr*, Countess of Bedford, by *Vandyck*.

A Bacchanal, in two colours, by *Rubens*.

Portrait of *Stewart*, Duke of Richmond, by *Vandyck*.

Ditto of *Vandyck*, by himself.

A Girl with a Dog, sleeping, by *Rembrandt*.

Two Sea-pieces, by *Vandervelde, Junior*.

The Holy Family, by *Paul Veronese*.

Portrait of Antonio Carracci, by himself.

Stag-hunting, and Heron-hawking, by Wou-
vermans.

Judgment of Paris, by Rothenamer.

Fruit-pieces, by M. Angelo.

A Satyr squeezing Grapes, with a Tyger and
Leopard, by Rubens.

The Will of Endamidas, the Corinthian, a
sketch, by Poussin.

Man and Woman smoaking, by Teniers.

Ditto drinking, by ditto.

A Man's Head, said to be that of Massaniello,
the Fisherman, who caused the great Revolution
of Naples, by Sal. Rosa.

A Barber-surgeon's Shop, with Cat and Mon-
kies, by Teniers.

Our Saviour, the Virgin, and some Saints, by
Guido.

Our Saviour breaking the Bread, by Carlo
Dolce.

St. Bruno, Founder of the Order of Carthu-
sians, by ditto.

Philip baptizing the Eunuch, by John Both.

A Landscape and Figures of Dutch Boors, by
Ostade.

Shipwreck of St. Paul on the island of Malta,
by Adam Elsheimer.

The

THE METHUEN FAMILY derive their origin, according to Sir Robert Douglas*, from a person of distinction who accompanied Edgar Atheling out of Hungary, and was received into the favour of Malcolm Canmore, then King of the Scots. This monarch conferred on him the barony of Methuen, in Perthshire, whence the family assumed their surname. It appears by some documents in the Herald's office, that the Methuens were invested with some important official situations in the government; and that Henry Steward was created a Baron, by the title of Lord Methuen, in the reign of James the Fifth. In the reign of Mary, Queen of Scots, their ancestor came over to England, and was kindly received by Elizabeth.

The subject of our present enquiry, is Sir Paul Methuen, the founder of the valuable collection of paintings which ornament the family seat. Though I cannot furnish a complete memoir of this distinguished character, yet the following anecdotes will be found to delineate the man with so spirited and striking an outline, that the imagination will easily fill up the picture. Anecdotes that peculiarly mark the propensities and manners of a person, are generally more interesting, and make us more acquainted with him

* Baronage of Scotland.

than a long dissertation. They commonly characterize the *mind* and *heart* of the individual; whereas biographical discussions without them, may paint in false colours, and draw erroneous outlines.

Sir Paul Methuen was the only surviving son of the Right Honourable John Methuen, Lord Chancellor of Ireland. He was born in the year 1672, and being of a weakly constitution, was early sent into the south of France for education. At the age of twenty he accompanied his father on his embassy to Lisbon; and was soon afterwards appointed envoy at that court, in the place of his parent. An enumeration of the several important offices and honours that were conferred on him by different courts, will be a higher panegyric on his talents and estimation, than any encomiums from a biographer. He was, at different periods of his life, envoy extraordinary and ambassador to the Emperors of Germany and Morocco, also to the Kings of Spain, Portugal, and Sardinia. Nor was he less distinguished in the English court. He was one of the Lords of the Admiralty, a Lord of the Treasury, Principal Secretary of State, Comptroller of the Household, and one of the Privy Council, and was created Knight of the Bath, on the revival of that order, in the year 1725. He
was

was not only caressed in the vicinity of the court, but also by the most celebrated writers and connoisseurs of the time. Sir Richard Steele dedicated the seventh volume of the *Spectator* to him; and, if the language of dedications might be allowed as unexaggerated (and that it is not *more candid, sincere, and faithful*, is much to be regretted) this would be sufficient to immortalize him, and prove his pretensions to “the character of a good-natured, honest, and accomplished gentleman.” Voltaire, in his *Age of Louis the Fourteenth*, speaks of him as being one of the best ministers that the English ever employed in an embassy. Mr. Whitehead, in his collection of poems, has bestowed a high panegyric on him; as did likewise the “modest Gay,” in one of his epistles.

Whatever effect these encomiums might have on the actions of his life, they did not make him ostentatious of monumental eulogy; nor does it appear that they inflated his mind with those fantastical notions, which flattery too commonly excites in the shallow-pated coxcomb; for he ordered a plain marble tomb to be erected to his own and his father's memory, in Westminster Abbey, inscribed with these words:

NEAR THIS PLACE
LIES THE BODY OF
JOHN METHUEN, ESQ.

WHO DIED ABROAD IN THE SERVICE OF HIS
COUNTRY,

ANNO DOM. 1706.

AND ALSO THAT OF HIS SON

SIR PAUL METHUEN,

KNIGHT OF THE BATH,

WHO DIED APRIL 11TH, 1757,

IN THE 85TH YEAR OF HIS AGE.

Previous to his death, he exacted a promise from Mr. Methuen that he would destroy *all* his papers relative to his own and his father's negotiations, which were so numerous that they filled two large trunks. The compliance with this strange request has probably deprived the world of many curious and valuable state papers. This was not the only eccentricity that marked his actions, for soon after he obtained possession of his father's estates, which were pretty considerable in Wiltshire, Somersetshire, and London, he sold most of them, and afterwards kept his fortune, which was very considerable, in money. It is said that thirty thousand pounds were discovered in a closet at his town-house at the time of his death. Towards the latter part of his life he lived very retired, and forsook the court, and all its dependencies.

Queen

Queen Caroline (consort of George the Second) breakfasted with Sir Paul at his house in Grosvenor-street, and endeavoured to prevail on him to resume his public employments, and seconded her entreaties with offering him a *carte blanche*; but the knight was resolutely determined to leave the cares and anxieties attendant on public trusts, and the eloquence and persuasion of her Majesty could make no impression on the stoical bachelor; he was not to be bought*, or flattered out of his retirement. The Queen descanted particularly on his pictures, knowing that to be his hobby, and was profuse of encomiums on the Dead Christ, by Carracci, which is now in the great room at Corsham House.

Sir Paul was well read in all the foreign languages, and was ever esteemed a man of great courage, gallantry, and taste. He once rode from Lisbon to Madrid, to fight a duel with a gentleman who had ill-treated a lady of his acquaintance; having disarmed his antagonist, and laid the trophy of victory at the feet of the "fair damsel," he returned again to Lisbon.

When going on his embassy from London to Lisbon, he accompanied Sir George Rooke on

* The Queen was heard to say that she knew the price of every man, but *one*, meaning Sir Paul.

board the admiral's ship. Upon their arrival in the mouth of the Tagus, a French vessel of great force made her appearance; Sir Paul was full dressed, in order to be presented to the King of Portugal, but the gallant admiral wished to attack the enemy, and the courageous ambassador was resolved to accompany his friend, and wait on the French captain before the Portuguese monarch. An engagement ensued, and after a long contest, the French were obliged to yield. The ambition of Sir Paul overpowered his judgment; with his full-laced suit, he attempted to board the enemy, and in his eagerness to be the *first* on deck, he fell between the vessels into the yielding lap of mother ocean, where he flounced and swam about for a considerable time, before any of the crew could rescue him from his perilous situation; which they at last effected, though at the expence of his fine court apparel.

He accompanied Charles the Third, King of Spain, both at the siege and capitulation of Barcelona, and was always consulted by that monarch during the councils of war.

Though Sir Paul was probably one of the most gallant of men, yet he never married, and assigned as a reason for his celibacy, that the *blessings of wedlock* were too great for him to enjoy. That he was not insensible to the fascinations of female

beauty, was evident from many actions of his life, one of which is worthy of recital. The Duke of Savoy, afterwards King of Sardinia, was indebted to Sir Paul for his life, who fought by his side, and was the first that mounted the wall when he recovered his capital, and shot a musqueteer at the moment he had levelled his piece at the Duke. By these signal actions of bravery, he acquired the love and esteem of all the family, and was admitted into their parties of amusement. One day, when in the carriage with some of the princesses, one of them admired a ring he had on his finger, which was a remarkable fine ruby. Sir Paul tendered it to the princess, and begged she would honour him by her acceptance; which she declining, he immediately threw it into the Po, the carriage then passing the bridge over that river. Many other anecdotes are recorded of him, but these will furnish the reader with some distinguishing traits of this great and good character. It would be almost unpardonable to conclude these anecdotes without noticing an *invaluable legacy* he left to Mr. Methuen; a legacy, the benefit of which is not *confined to an individual*, but will be beneficial to every person who will *study* its tendency. This legacy consists of some excellent advice, delivered to Mr. Methuen soon after he came
of

of age, inclosed in a letter, in which was the following sentence: "Whensoever it shall please God to take me out of this world, it may happen that I may leave you something which in the general opinion of mankind will be thought of much greater value than the enclosed sheet of paper; but I must differ so far from them, as to believe the greatest proof and testimony I can give of my tender affection and real regard for you, is contained in that." The following are Sir Paul Methuen's instructions to Mr. Methuen.

"Let the love of your country be the principal and chief motive of all your actions.

"Let reason, justice, and humanity, be the measures of them, and your constant guides.

"Let truth be the only object of your enquiries; since all sensible men will agree, that truth alone is worthy of them.

"Follow the dictates of your own conscience, the light of your own understanding; and take a firm resolution, never to do any thing you may think mean, base, or dishonest, upon any consideration whatever.

"Shew always a due regard, respect, and obedience, to the laws and customs of your country; and particularly an inviolable attachment to those amongst them, which relate to the preservation of your liberty, property, and privileges,
which

which are the natural birth-right of every Briton, and have been transmitted down to us by our ancestors with so much care ; since these make so essential a difference between the present condition of an inhabitant of this island, and that of those in most other kingdoms of Europe. But above all, since you have the good fortune to be born in a country where some liberty remains, let me recommend independence to you, which properly distinguishes a freeman from a servant, or a slave ; and without which, no one can lay any solid, lasting, or secure foundation for the happiness of his whole life, but what must be precarious, and depend on others.

“Whereas I believe I may safely venture to assure you, that a steady conduct, and adherence to the few rules I have mentioned, with a good conscience, and contented mind, the inseparable companions of such a behaviour, will effectually put it out of the power of others to make you unhappy ; and always enable you to go through and support the many various accidents and misfortunes which all men are liable to, with constancy, spirit, and resolution. And at last, which I think is the greatest blessing of all, when that tribute we all owe to nature comes to be paid, will make you reflect with pleasure and satisfaction on your past life, and bring you with comfort to your grave.”

SECT.

SECT. XXX.

BRADFORD.

THE importance of the woollen manufactory, and its influence in augmenting the prosperity of Wiltshire, I have already mentioned; I shall now proceed to a description of the town of Bradford, where I am informed the cultivation and increase of this invaluable branch of commerce is more particularly attended to, than at any other place in the county.

Bradford is situated on the banks of the Avon, near the middle of the western boundary of Wilts, bordering on Somersetshire. Its name appears to have been derived from the Saxon *Bradenford*; so called, from the broad ford which formerly crossed the river on the spot where there is now a stone bridge of nine arches.

The town is built principally on the declivity of a hill; the houses are of stone. Many of them are exceedingly spacious and handsome,

some, being erected and chiefly inhabited by wealthy clothiers. The streets are mostly narrow and irregular. The surrounding eminences furnish some very pleasing views ; and the prospect from the centre of the bridge is peculiarly romantic and picturesque.

The church is large and ancient ; the windows were of painted glass, but the subjects are so much defaced, that it is scarcely possible to discover their meaning ; the ravages of time, and the depredations of rude boys, having shattered many of the panes. In the church are a few monuments not unworthy of inspection. The hamlets of Westwood, Holt, Attford, South Wraxhall, Stoke, Yeovil, and Winstey, each of which has a chapel of ease, are included in this vicarage. Westwood is a rectory, and manages its own poor.

Near the church is a charity school for the education of sixty-five children ; this was opened in January 1712, and is supported by various donations, and voluntary subscriptions. The alms-house, at the west end of the town, was founded by John Hall, Esq. the last of that name ; his family had resided at Bradford from the reign of Edward the First.

The government of the poor, of whom there are a considerable number in this town, is attended

tended with some degree of singularity. They are under the management of an overseer, elected by housekeepers paying the nine-penny rate, whose place is for life. The propriety of this measure is somewhat questionable. Great power lodged in the hands of an individual is generally abused, which should make us particularly cautious in the object of choice, if circumstances render it absolutely necessary. His salary is 500*l.* per annum.

The population of Bradford is estimated at twelve thousand; but Mr. Barker, the late intelligent rector, was of opinion that this computation was too large; from comparing the births, marriages, &c. of several years with the most approved tables, he conjectured that nine thousand was much nearer to the truth.

The lower classes in manufacturing towns, as I have already had occasion to notice at Chippenham, are too commonly immoral and uncleanly; their impropriety of conduct shews itself in a variety of disorders. The dissoluteness of the common people at Bradford is manifested by numerous instances of scrophula; even leprosy is not uncommon. The beds of the infected persons are found of a morning covered with a farinacious substance like flour. Probably a collateral cause of these severe afflictions,
4 may

may be traced in the quality of the water that is drank by the inhabitants, most of which is impregnated with fixed air and magnesia. This water flows in a number of little streams from the surrounding hills, and is generally preferred to that of the river, which, by the number of dye-houses seated on its banks, is rendered very often turbid and unwholesome.

The health of the poor is committed to the care of a surgeon, who has a salary of two hundred and fifty guineas yearly, allowed him by the corporation; besides two shillings and sixpence for every inoculation and delivery.

On the summit of the hill, near the entrance of the town from Somersetshire, a new turnpike-house has lately been erected. It commands three roads, and appears neat and ornamental. Its form is triangular, with embrasures, and a round tower at each corner. A large mansion in this town, now let out in tenements, was once the residence of the celebrated Duchess of Kingston.

The manufactories of Bradford are almost wholly confined to the clothing trade; it is the largest and most regular in its manufacture of any in Wilts, perhaps in the kingdom; one manufactory alone employs from one thousand to fifteen hundred persons. The inhabitants are

chiefly employed in the making of fine broad cloths; from ten to twelve thousand pieces being sent away annually. A few clergy, or ladies cloths, are made here, and also some kersey-meres and fancy pieces; but the manufacture of these articles is carried to a much greater extent in the neighbouring town of Trowbridge.

The price of the cloth varies in proportion to the colour, some dyes being more expensive than others. The price is generally from sixteen to eighteen shillings per yard; the variation from six-pence to two shillings, on the same quantity. Spanish wool only is used.

The broad cloths are of the length of thirty yards; these are called pieces. The cloths are about twenty yards in length; two of them make a *piece*; in this state, they are said to have two *ends*. When the broad cloths are first wove, their width is eleven quarters and a half; this diminishes considerably during the stages of manufacture. When finished, it is no more than seven quarters, which is its *legal* breadth.

With the following account of the variety of processes which the wool undergoes, I have been favoured by an eminent clothier, now resident in the town :

“ The first stage the wool goes through is trying; this is performed by women. They cut
off

off the pitch, and cleanse the wool from all kinds of hair and impurities. The next stage, it is scoured in a hot lye, made of urine and water; pearl-ashes are sometimes used, but urine is preferable. It is then well washed in the river, near the dye-house, where buckets are placed for the purpose. The next day it is dyed; and the day after, washed, by some; others let it remain in the liquor it is dyed in a day longer, that the colours may be firm, and the wool more hollow, not being thrown out of the furnace too hot. It is then dried, picked, (by women) and weighed, in order to ascertain the waste. Afterwards it is oiled with Gallipoli oil, scribbled, carded, slabed, and spun. From the spinner, it is sent to the weaver, who steeps the chain in a size made of glue, dries it, and has it spuled by women. In the next stage it is warped to the desired length, and the sheet, or abb, dipped in water, for a boy, who winds it on bobbins to supply the shuttle. It is then wove, brayed, burled, milled, spuled, drawn, and dressed, fit for the consumer.

“The number of hands employed, men, women, and children, is very great, notwithstanding the advantage of machinery. A person making ten cloths weekly, employs from one hundred and thirty to one hundred and fifty people of every description. In this town, the

number of clothiers is between sixty and seventy, each house manufacturing to the extent of its capital."

The woollen trade was formerly a means of subsistence to many more persons than it is at present; the application of machinery to almost all the branches of the clothing business, having caused a number of labourers to seek other employments. Scribbling mills, and spinning jennies, those great sources of celerity, of dispatch, and neatness of execution, were brought to Bradford about twelve years since. Their introduction was attended with considerable ferment; and some lives were lost in the disturbances that ensued. A very large manufactory is now building at Staverton, about two miles from this town, the proprietors of which intend to erect a *shearing* mill; but they are apprehensive of considerable opposition from the shear-men, who have hitherto prevented those ingenious machines from being introduced into this part of the kingdom; and who still threaten to set fire to every manufactory in which they may be constructed.

This town was distinguished, in the time of the Saxons, for a severe battle fought between Kenilwach, the West Saxon King, and his kinsman Cuthred. Here was also a nunnery, founded by Aldhelm, Bishop of Sherborn, about
the

the year 706. This was totally destroyed in the Danish wars, and never afterwards restored. In a synod held at this town in 954, the famous Dunstan, whose craft I have had occasion to notice at Calne, was elected Bishop of Worcester.

Bradford made only one return of two members to serve in parliament; this was in the reign of Edward the First. Their names, as recorded by Brown Willis, in his *Notitia Parliamentaria*, were Thomas Dendeng, and William Wager.

This lordship was given, with the parsonage, to the nunnery of Shaftsbury, by King Ethelred, together with the foundation of St. Aldhelm, as a recompence for the murder of his brother Edward, surnamed the Martyr.

When the revenues of the Abbey of Shaftsbury were seized by Henry the Eighth, he gave the parsonage to the Dean and Chapter of Bristol. The manor and hundred were granted by Queen Elizabeth, to Sir Francis Walsingham; they are now the property of Mr. Methuen, of Corsham.

HOLT.

About three miles from Bradford, is the little village of Holt, more famous for its medicinal waters than any other peculiarity.

Holt

Holt is composed of about fifty houses, scattered over a considerable space of ground. The church is small, yet ancient; a niche over the west door appears to have been ornamented with a statue.

Mr. David Arnot, the proprietor of Holt Spa, is not unknown to the literary world. His "Commercial Tables," is a performance of much merit; by it, mercantile calculations are greatly facilitated. The description of Stonehenge, which accompanied the first of a series of medals, intended to represent all the remaining Druidical monuments in the kingdom, was drawn up under his direction. The Holt-water is esteemed as being a powerful alterative; and many instances of its having cured the most virulent scrophula are recorded.

Here then I shall take the liberty to suspend my labours for the *present*. But should the foregoing *sketches* merit the approbation of the nobility and gentry of the county, and the majority of my readers, I propose to publish a third volume in the course of the ensuing year; for the completion of which I have already collected much information, and possess many original papers; but in order to render this portion of my work as perfect as possible, I earnestly solicit the

the *free and candid communications* of those persons who may possess any documents, or whose knowledge may furnish them with opportunities for describing the following, or any other places, unnoticed in these volumes :

TROWBRIDGE, LAYCOCK, MELKSHAM, AVEBURY, SPY-PARK, CASTLE COMB, KINGTON ST. MICHAEL, DRAYCOTT, STANTON ST. QUINTIN, BRADENSTOKE, MALMSBURY, SHERSTON, EASTON GREY, CRICKLADE, CHARLTON PARK, SWINDON, HIGHWORTH, WOTTON-BASSET, LEDYARD TREGOSE, LITTLECOTE, RAMSBURY, &c.



Printed by J. D. DEWICK,
Aldersgate Street.

the list and careful examination of those persons who may possess any documents or whose knowledge may furnish them with opportunities for describing the following, or any other places, mentioned in these volumes:

THOMAS, LAYCOCK, MANSFIELD, AVE.
 RY, ST. PAUL, CASTLE CORNER, LONDON
 ST. MICHAEL, DEACON, STATION ST.
 QUINCY, BARNSTON, MANSFIELD
 STERSON, EASTON, GRET, CRICKLAD
 CHARLTON PARK, SWINDON, MICHAMPTON
 WOTTON-BASSET, LEBY AND THROCK, THE
 TRECOT, HAMMERT, &c.



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ANNALS OF THE

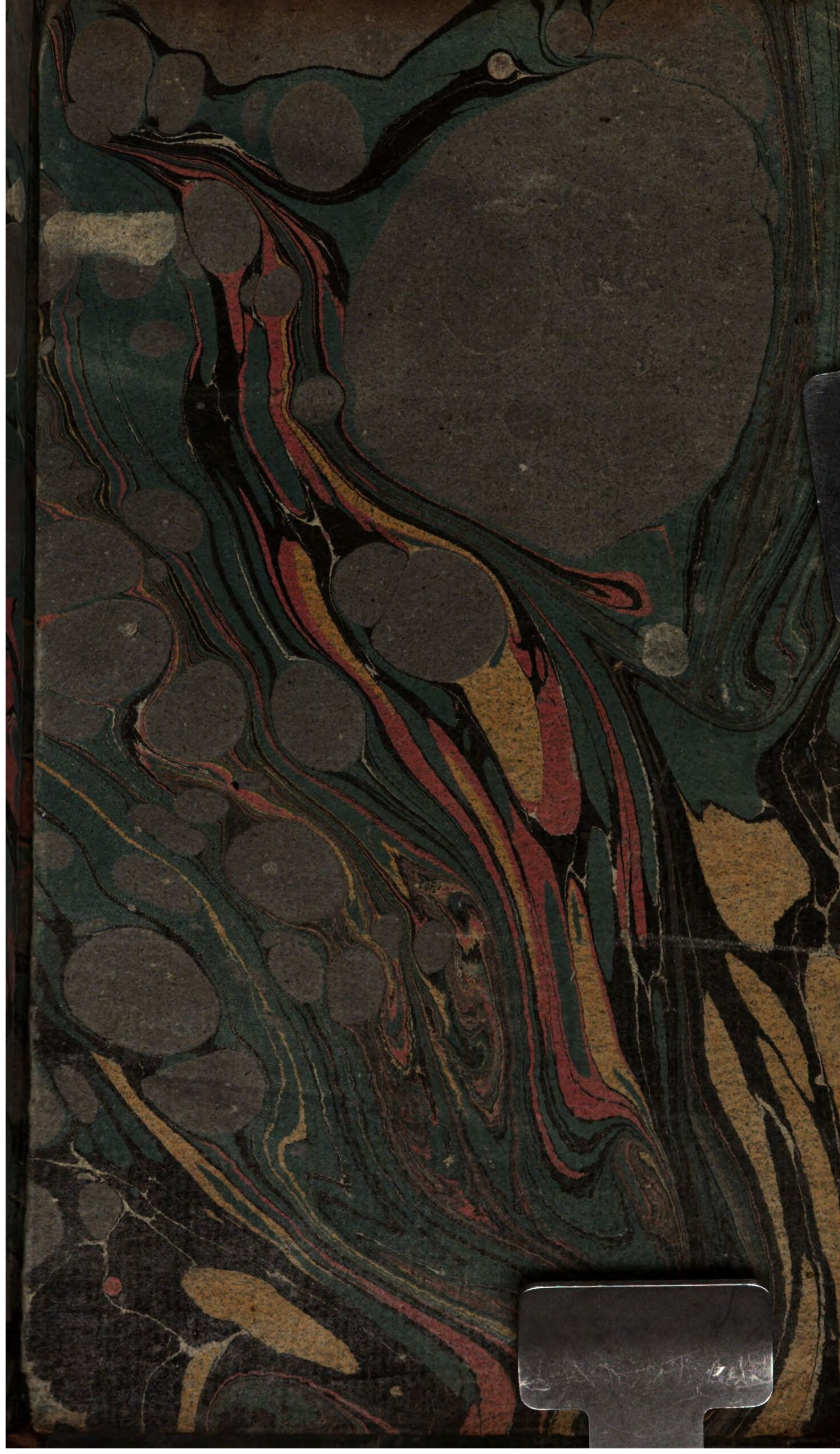
1811

The first of the year was a day of great
and the day was a day of great
and the day was a day of great
and the day was a day of great

The second of the year was a day of great
and the day was a day of great
and the day was a day of great
and the day was a day of great
and the day was a day of great
and the day was a day of great









Britton, John,

The Beauties of Wiltshire displayed in statistical, historical, and
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anecdotes of the arts
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